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MEASLES HITS SCHOOL PUPILS

Parents 'must give children MMR'

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudlelek@kosmedia.co.uk

PUPILS and teachers have been given emergency vaccinations after an outbreak of measles at a primary school.

Kent Health Protection Unit (HPU) said there had been one confirmed case of the disease and 18 suspected cases among children at Eastchurch Primary School in Sheerness.

A team of HPU and NHS staff on Friday rushed to offer the combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine to those at the school who had not been immunised.

It comes only weeks after a measles outbreak at Cranbrook School, which saw four pupils struck down by the potentially fatal illness, and a further 87 staff and students given MMR jabs.

The Health Protection Agency revealed last week that nationally there had been 1,348 cases of measles last year compared to 990 in 2007.

In 2008 in Kent there were 22 confirmed cases of measles, an increase on the previous year when there were just seven cases.

In 1998, which was the year Dr Andrew Wakefield published his research in the Lancet claiming a link between the MMR vaccine and autism, there were only 56 cases.

Eastchurch headteacher Pauline Shipley spoke about uptake of the vaccine at the school: "I think it is difficult to say. We had between 40 to 50 pupils take up the jab today (Friday) and all the ones who are suspected of having measles did not have it.

"But then a lot of parents said they had given their children the MMR. It is just unfortunate it spread."

Dr Mathi Chandrakumar, director of the Kent HPU, said: "Basically following the MMR controversy, some mothers got scared and did not give their children the MMR vaccine.

Scared

"It is perhaps understandable mothers were scared, but all the evidence clearly shows MMR has no links with autism. In fact the person responsible [for insinuating a link] is now in front of the General Medical Council because there are a lot of issues."

He said parents should not be worried about the safety of the jab.

Measles is highly infectious and spread by a virus and produces the well-known blotchy rash.

Dr Chandrakumar said: "It is very, very important mothers and people who have not had the MMR get the jab. Measles can be fatal... it can cause deafness and brain damage, therefore it is important to get the jab."

Before the 'MMR controversy', measles had practically been wiped out across the UK but last year two teenagers died from the disease and cases have shot up.

Take up nationally is 77.9 per cent, but to protect the whole population through 'herd immunity' 95 per cent of children need to be immunised.

Asked whether older children and teenagers who had missed out on the vaccine when they were younger should have it now, Dr Chandrakumar added: "Oh yes, absolutely. They can have the vaccination at any age. If you get measles when you are older the complications are worse."

Health trusts in Kent have been running immunisation campaigns to encourage more parents to take up the MMR vaccine.

Dr Alison Barnett, the director of public health at NHS Medway, said: "We have been doing a catch-up campaign for MMR via our GPs and the number of people having their children vaccinated has gone up.

"The important thing is to ensure people have children vaccinated."

Picture: SIMON ROBINSON

Lawyers called in over Grain 'British jobs' row

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Maternity millions were not 'ring-fenced' for pregnant women

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

AFTER the scandal over pregnant women being turned away from hospitals, Kent on Sunday can reveal extra Government funding for maternity services was not put aside solely for mums-to-be by health bosses in west Kent.

In January last year Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced that primary care trusts (PCTs) would be given an extra £330 million to spend on maternity over three years, which followed a critical review of the services by the health watchdog.

KoS asked Kent PCTs what they had spent the funding on, and a spokesman for NHS West Kent said: "NHS West Kent receives an allocation which is used to fund all services including maternity. There is no ring-fenced amount for maternity; funding is allocated by local priority setting. We have carried out an assessment of local needs for maternity services and from this have set out our priorities."

The PCT is now "assessing the current use of resources and evaluating gaps in services", he said.

Closures of maternity units have increased, the Conservative Party said this week, based on figures they received from Freedom of Information requests.

In west Kent, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust had temporarily closed its maternity units 97 times last year.

A BIG ISSUE: Maternity units were closed

Gillian Duffey, head of midwifery services for the trust, said the figures needed to be put in context and that the trust diverted few women between its units.

"Most diverts are in place for a few hours, they can be longer, but on most occasions no women are actually diverted during that time," she said.

Initiative

"We diverted nine women during the 30 occasions this happened at Pembury last year. Although we don't have specific figures to hand for Maidstone, the view is it was equally low."

The trust has maternity units at Maidstone and Pembury hospitals, which will be combined into a 'massive' department at the new Pembury Hospital being built under a private finance initiative and set to open in 2011.

Mrs Duffey said the move would help resolve the need for pregnant women to be turned away, while at the same time a midwifery-led birthing unit is being created at Maidstone ahead of the move. She said the trust was currently recruiting for 10 midwife vacancies at its two maternity sites.

Asked how it was spending the extra maternity funding, a spokesman for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent said the PCT was expanding its midwifery workforces to further improve both antenatal and post-natal care.

Parent education was given as one example. He said the PCT was also increasing the facilities it provides in conjunction with children's centres and the Government's Sure Start scheme.

The PCT said it was in the process of consulting to produce a five to 10-year strategy for maternity services, which it said would be focused on bringing services closer to home, giving more choice and increases access.

The Tories' Freedom of Information request showed East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust "frequently had to divert women between sites last year" and that Canterbury had changed from a consultant-led maternity unit to a midwife-led service in 2004.

A trust spokesman said many women preferred giving birth in a midwife-led unit because it was like a 'home from home' and were planning to open two more in response to demand, which will take pressure off consultant-led services.

"As far as we are aware we have never turned anyone away," he said.

"If one site is experiencing a rush we divert them to another unit."

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IT worker possessed 20,000 child porn images

A PAEDOPHILE who downloaded more than 20,000 pictures and videos of child pornography has been jailed for four years.

Former IT worker Peter Selley, 44, from Folkestone, was arrested in March last year following an extensive investigation by Kent Police's digital forensics unit.

He later pleaded guilty to 10 counts of distributing child porn, 15 of making indecent images and five of possessing them, and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday.

Judge David Griffiths-Jones told him: "These offences are of a sickening nature, which reflect how you glorified in the sexual abuse of children."

Child porn images are categorised on a scale from one to five, with five being the most serious depicting sadism or bestiality.

The majority of the 152 videos found on Selley's computer were of level four.

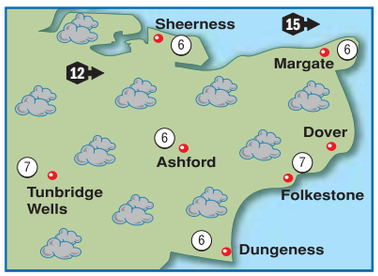
Det Con James Traynor said: "Selley compiled and distributed a sickening collection of indecent images and movies of children suffering real abuse over a period of at least eight years.

"Selley was believed to be of good character. This case highlights that this type of offender can come from any social background and is not restricted to a stereotypical criminal."

Upon his release from prison, Selley will be forced to sign the sex offenders' register and will remain on licence for three years.

He will also be made subject to a sex offences prevention order and will never be able to work with children under the age of 16.

Kent today



TODAY: It will be mostly cloudy with occasional light rain and drizzle spreading from the north. Plenty of dry weather too. A predominantly cloudy evening. Moderate westerly winds. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F).
TONIGHT: Cloudy skies with the odd spot of drizzle. Gentle north-westerly winds. Min temp 2-5C (36-41F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	7	45	London	cloudy	8	46
Belfast	cloudy	8	46	Liverpool	cloudy	8	46
Birmingham	cloudy	9	48	Manchester	cloudy	8	46
B'mouth	cloudy	8	46	Newcastle	cloudy	7	45
Bristol	cloudy	8	46	Norwich	cloudy	7	45
Cardiff	cloudy	8	46	Oxford	cloudy	8	46
Cork	cloudy	9	48	Southsea	cloudy	7	45
Edinburgh	cloudy	8	46	S'hampton	cloudy	8	46
Glasgow	cloudy	8	46	Southport	cloudy	8	46
Isle of Man	cloudy	8	46	Swansea	cloudy	8	46
Leeds	cloudy	7	45	Torquay	cloudy	8	46

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.09am	Sunset	5.10pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	–	Moonset	8.46am	5.10pm to 7.07am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	02.25	6.5	14.47	6.1	03.06	6.2	15.31	5.7
Margate	03.27	4.7	15.55	4.4	04.06	4.5	16.33	4.2
St Mary's	08.16	5.1	20.36	4.9	08.54	4.7	21.19	4.5

Week ahead

monday Dull. Drizzle. max 9C min 5C

tuesday Dry and cloudy. max 10C min 4C

wednesday Bright spells. max 10C min 5C

thursday Rain at times. max 9C min 3C

friday Sunny spells. max 8C min 3C

saturday Mostly cloudy. max 9C min 2C

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Police finally get guilty verdict for girl-in-suitcase murder

A HOMELESS man has been found guilty of murdering Tunbridge Wells schoolgirl Terry Edmonds before stuffing her body into a suitcase.

Philip Bell, 22, is thought to have suffocated the 17-year-old while sexually assaulting her, and was convicted by a jury at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday.

It was the second time Bell had been tried for murder after the first case collapsed when jurors were unable to reach a verdict. He will be sentenced on Wednesday.

Det Chief Insp Dave Withers said: "Our thoughts are with Terry's family and friends as they have been through a very difficult ordeal.

"Terry was a young, vibrant, popular woman with a life to look forward to. That life was tragically taken from her prematurely.

"Bell murdered Terry, hid her body and tried to cover up his horrific crime. We were able, through a meticulous investigation, painstaking research by the Forensic Science Service (FSS) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to prove he was guilty."

Evidence

Miss Edmonds was last seen leaving a train at Tunbridge Wells railway station, at about 6.25pm on April 17, 2006.

Police made numerous appeals for information about her whereabouts before finding her body in a suitcase near the Morrisons supermarket in Vale Avenue.

Simon Ringrose, prosecuting, said: "This was a difficult and complicated case involving a large number of pieces of evidence. However, as the investigation advanced the evidence led to one man – Philip Bell.

"By working closely together, the Crown Prosecution Service and police were able to present a compelling case to the jury."

Jo Millington, senior forensic scientist at the FSS's homicide department, added: "In this case, we had to analyse an almost unprecedented range of different types of evidence.

"The complex nature of the investigation demanded close collaboration with the police so we could share our intelligence as each new piece of the jigsaw came together."

Tracy Edmonds, 17

Manston to have more night-flying

THANET councillors have voted for more night-flying at Manston's Kent International Airport.

Thursday's decision allows so-called 'shoulder periods' to be added to the agreement with the town hall, letting owner Infratil to expand its operating hours from 7am-11pm to 6am-11.30pm.

It will mean 11 extra flights a week by 747-400 aircraft for a trial period of 18 months.

A Thanet council spokeswoman said "only a portion of these" would be scheduled for the extended flying times.

Infratil had asked for the extension after talks to bring "a major European airline", rumoured to be British Airways World Cargo, to the airport.

Economics expert gives free lecture

BRITAIN must prepare to remould its economy in the wake of the recession, according to economics expert David Freud.

He will be giving this year's free Lord Mayor of Canterbury's Lecture where he will expand on the effects of the high-speed rail link and give his opinion on the recession.

He said: "Will we be better off after the recession? No. The world economy has over-traded by about 10 per cent.

"We need to lose that, and then build it back up over the next four to five years."

My Freud will be speaking at the University of Kent's Keynes Lecture Theatre on Friday, February 20, at 6pm.

Fast trains soon

TRAVELLERS are set to get an earlier than expected taste of the much-anticipated high-speed rail link to London with a limited 'preview' service kicking in this summer.

Rail operator Southeastern will introduce its 140mph Class 395 trains from December 13, slashing journey times from Ashford International to St Pancras to just 37 minutes.

To see this search 'newchurch'
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Find out about the remarkable community that's pulling together to host their own stage show

County is becoming a 'gastronomic heaven'

Guide extols virtues of our pubs and restaurants

HIGH QUALITY farmers' markets, independent food shops, cheesemakers and fishmongers have led to a hub of acclaimed restaurants and pubs in Kent, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

A foodie phenomenon has recently been described by industry experts, which has seen the Garden of England compared to Ludlow – the Shropshire town that has become renowned for its gastronomic delights and a myriad of Michelin stars.

Elizabeth Carter, the editor of the Good Food Guide, said: "A rough triangle encompassing Canterbury, Whitstable and Faversham in east Kent has lured quality chefs, who appear to be drawn to the high quality Kentish meat, fish, vegetables and fruits. Is this east Kent triangle the new Ludlow?

"Reporters to the Good Food Guide have identified a whole area, not a town, as the new gastronomic hot spot."

The Good Food Guide 2009, includes three new Kent entries including the rural Yew Tree Inn at Barfreston, near Dover, which won the pub newcomer of the year award for its top quality ingredients in the kitchen and great local real ales at the bar.

Another newcomer to the ultimate good-eating guide was the Three Mariners at Oare near Faversham, which was described as "wonderfully laid back".

The restaurant proved a winner for sourcing most of its produce from local farm shops and serving fish from the only day boat working from the Oare creek, which is only 55 yards away.

Smart restaurant-style cooking in a casual setting was the draw for reviewers who ate at the Dove in Dargate, near Faversham.

The guide is published by Which?, the consumer watchdog, and it contains more than 1,000 reviews.

Craig Mather, the head chef at the Yew Tree Inn, said: "We are so out of the way, but we are really building up a name for ourselves because of using all of the local produce."

Phillip MacGregor, the chef and proprietor of the Dove, worked in London and in France before settling in Kent.

He said: "You are in a perfect situation with the amount of farmland and the incredible amount of local produce, everything is very accessible."

Jonathan Neame, the chief executive of the Faversham-based brewery Shepherd Neame, said he was delighted with five of the company's pubs making it into the guide.

"Great competition breeds excellence," he said. "We have a number of good pubs in the guide and clearly we want more. Other potential chefs can see how successful these places are so success breeds success."

GRUBS UP: The Dove in Dargate and The Yew Tree Inn at Barfreston

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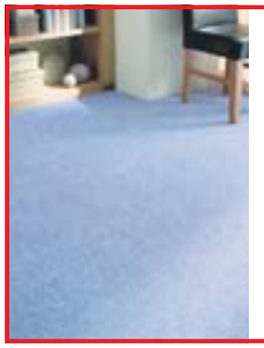

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Union's legal threat in Grain labour row

EXCLUSIVE

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A ROW over the use of foreign labour at a Kent power station is threatening to spill over into the courtroom.

The Unite union is taking legal advice after allegations that two firms helping to build a new gas-fired plant on the Isle of Grain are underpaying their Polish employees and refusing to allow Britons to apply for jobs.

The sub-contractors in question – Remak and ZRE Katowice – will now undergo 'forensic audits' before any further action is taken.

Unite regional officer Neil Willoughby said: "Polish workers have joined us because they feel they are being exploited and being paid considerably less than British workers.

"We also have a situation where British sub-contractors are being fair and reasonable by employing foreign workers, whereas we believe the Polish firms are not.

"We had a meeting on Thursday when all parties agreed there should be an internal audit to ensure they are paying to the national agreement."

French multinational Alstom is co-ordinating the project on behalf of German energy giant E.ON and has come under fire from Unite in recent months. The union is angry the firm did not include a clause in its tendering contract that any subcontractor should seek to employ British workers. About 100 unemployed tradesmen took part in a 'British jobs for British workers' protest outside the power station on Wednesday and Mr Willoughby confirmed more were in the pipeline.

He said: "We were pleased with the turnout but the important thing was that they had an opportunity to demonstrate. It's about people wanting to work. A lot of them are struggling and it's frustrating when they're not given the same opportunities as people from abroad.

Picture: SIMON ROBINSON

POWER STRUGGLE: A protestor at Grain

"We've made very little progress on this. Alstom advertised at Chatham job centre for skilled workmen, but despite nearly 500 people applying, not one has been interviewed.

"They keep telling us they are working to give everyone an equal opportunity but absolutely nothing has been done and we're extremely disappointed."

Mr Willoughby will meet representatives from Alstom again early next month, by which time the forensic audits on Remak and ZRE Katowice are expected to be complete.

An Alstom official said: "Alstom is a member of the Engineering Construction Industry Association (ECIA) and is signed up to its National Agreement for the Engineering Construction Industry (NAECI). This ensures correct pay and conditions for workers, regardless of nationality.

"All sub-contractors are fully aware of their obligations to ensure the terms of NAECI apply to work on our sites. We do not tolerate non-compliance with this agreement.

"In accordance with NAECI, all workers covered by this agreement are paid the same rate for the same work.

"Rates of pay are monitored and independently audited and regularly reported to the Grain site's Project Joint Council, which comprises representatives of the GMB and Unite unions, sub-contractors and Alstom."

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Soldier dies in Iraq

A SOLDIER from a regiment that recruits within Kent has been killed in Iraq.

The MoD said a member of the 1st Bn the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment died on Thursday at the Contingency Operating Base.

The next of kin have been informed and the circumstances are still being investigated, the MoD said. The battalion has a ceremonial headquarters at Howe Barracks, Canterbury.

Body found in river

POLICE have confirmed a body recovered from the River Medway was 18-year-old Sonny Singh Pataria, 18, from the Woodlands Road area of Gillingham.

His body was seen in the river near Gun Wharf, Chatham, shortly after 9.30am on Wednesday. The death is not being treated as suspicious and a post-mortem examination will be conducted next week.

To see this clip search 'protest'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Tradesmen on the Isle of Grain voice their anger at the lack of opportunities for British workers

HELLO, HELLO, HELLO: CCTV footage of the three car thieves – but do you know them?

Who are the car thieves?

KENT detectives investigating a spate of thefts of luxury cars have released CCTV images of a three men stealing an Aston Martin.

The DB9 was taken from Broxbourne Road, Orpington, at about 5.30pm on Monday. Officers say the raid could be linked to two similar thefts on the same evening. It is thought the cars were being stolen to order.

Det Insp Jane Corrigan said: "Burglary is a real violation of a person's home and privacy. Most items can be replaced, but the sense of security lost is a different matter.

"The victim in this case had CCTV and a tracker on the vehicle. This assisted in the speedy recovery of the car and also captured the suspects on film, brazenly breaking into a home. Now we need help in identifying them."

The thieves broke into the house by smashing the patio doors. They then took the car keys and other property before driving away in the DB9. Footage shows the three in the back garden before they got into the car. The Aston Martin was later recovered in nearby Petts Wood.

One suspect is a white male, aged about 18, and 5ft 5in. He wore light grey tracksuit bottoms, white trainers, a waterproof jacket with light stripes at the front and a baseball cap, possibly red.

The second man is slightly taller and wore grey tracksuit bottoms, white trainers and a dark waterproof jacket with a white stripe across the chest.

The third man was wearing similar clothes but with a grey hood.

Call Bromley police on 020 8284 9964, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111, if you can help.

Moat reports housing sales surge

THE housing association linked to the multi-million-pound regeneration of Stanhope in Ashford says its sales are increasing.

The Moat group said purchases of its homes increased by 50 per cent in January.

The figures relate to all its developments in the South East. The group said its success was due to special house-buying schemes offered to clients. Marilyn DiCara, director of sales and marketing, said: "These are really positive results, although it's too early to draw conclusions.

"The market has fallen a long way very quickly, but we know demand for well-priced homes is still sky-high.

"There is a range of products to meet that demand and people may be starting to think the time is right to buy."

Cleaners could abseil down the white horse landmark made of 'spun concrete'

A thoroughbred winner

EXCLUSIVE

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

SECRET staircases leading cleaners to 50ft-high abseil hatches could be the answer to maintenance issues surrounding Kent's giant white horse.

The idea is one of several being considered by engineers working with Turner Prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger, who this week beat off competition from a shortlist of talents to win the multi-million pound Ebbsfleet Landmark Project commission.

Speaking exclusively to Kent on Sunday, Mr Wallinger revealed the horse could also be built using new 'concrete spinning' techniques to increase the structure's strength.

He said: "There have been great advances in concrete technology in recent years, which makes the material a lot stronger than it was before.

"My study team has come up with several different ideas as to what we could do, including putting some sort of steps into the horse's legs and having little abseil hatches for the cleaners to hang out of.

"But the planning process will probably take about a year, so we'll be able to work out the details along the way."

Attractive

The £2 million white horse, which is being privately funded by Eurostar, Land Securities and London and Continental Railways, will stand prominently at Springhead Park and overlook Ebbsfleet Valley and Ebbsfleet International Station.

It was announced as the winning design on Tuesday, just hours before the real horse it was modelled on – Riviera Red – won in the 2.40pm flat race at Lingfield.

Mr Wallinger said: "It was a bizarrely amazing day because I own an eighth of the horse and it had only ever won one race before. So it was a unique double for me.

"He may not be the fastest horse, but he's very good to look at and we needed an attractive thoroughbred to be able to model the design on and take pictures of from every angle."

Mr Wallinger's design was originally criticised by Kent County Council, which wanted the animal to be "prancing" like the Invicta symbol in the authority's crest.

However, deputy leader Cllr Alex King welcomed the judges' decision despite them ignoring the council's protests.

He said: "This is the best option of the ones that were available. It may not be prancing, but at least it's a horse and it's white.

"It looks a lot more like Invicta than a pile of bricks does."

Cllr King's comments referred to one of the designs beaten by Mr Wallinger's horse, which was Richard Deacon's stack of differently shaped polyhedrons based on a cairn.

The other losing design was for a tower of stacked cubes with a laser beam shooting from it into the sky, created by French conceptual artist Daniel Buren.

Gravesham council leader Cllr Mike Snelling said he was pleased the judges sided with public opinion.

He explained: "We all had our own opinions on what design was best, and when we consulted with the public they generally chose the horse. I'm delighted the selection panel kept faith with public opinion.

"Whether people like the horse or not, the amount of coverage it has received worldwide is exactly what we were hoping for. It's already put Ebbsfleet on the map."

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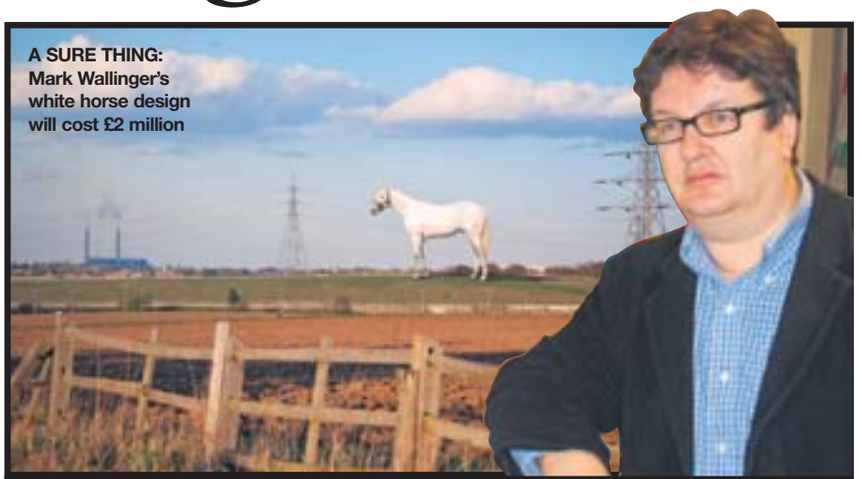

A SURE THING: Mark Wallinger's white horse design will cost £2 million

One man and his love of horses

ART and horses have always played a large part in the life of Turner Prize-winning talent Mark Wallinger.

Born in Chigwell, Essex, in 1959, he studied at the Chelsea School of Art and at the University of London's Goldsmiths college, where he also later taught.

His love of horses first became evident in a series of life-size portraits of the animals – entitled Race Class Sex – which were soon followed by a unique idea that earned Mr Wallinger his first Turner Prize nomination in 1995.

A Real Work of Art was a racehorse he bought with the idea that its image would be shown on bookmakers' television screens throughout the country. However, the horse was injured and only competed in one race.

Mr Wallinger is also known for his sculpture of Christ – entitled Ecce Homo – which was the first to occupy Trafalgar Square's empty plinth in 1999.

The Turner Prize was awarded to him in 2007 for his recreation of anti-war campaigner Brian Haw's continued protest outside the Houses of Parliament.

Mr Wallinger painstakingly recreated a 40m display of donations from the public that police had previously confiscated from Mr Haw's camp.

'Nagging' doubters go online

THE decision to award the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project to Mark Wallinger attracted a slew of negative comments from KOS Media readers.

Some described his horse design as "drab and uninspiring" while others said it would only be a matter of time before the sculpture was vandalised.

Their comments were posted on www.kentnews.co.uk.

Mark, from Sittingbourne, wrote that "a giant plastic gnome would be more tasteful than this abomination", while Andy Smith, from Cheshire, said the horse looked "extremely silly, like something from Land of the Giants".

Stuart, from Rainham, added: "History recorded what happened the last time a hollow horse was gifted to the nation – Troy was burned to the ground!

"The youth of Gravesham and the surrounding area will thank you I'm sure. It'll give them somewhere to shelter in inclement weather conditions while they drink and smoke themselves stupid."

However, readers from outside the UK had a more positive view on the design.

Patrick, from Idaho in the United States, wrote: "When I read about this today, I was very excited – a horse as tall as the Statue of Liberty.

"I would definitely come to see that next time I'm over. Awesome idea for art lovers."

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Retail therapy keeps big centres buzzing

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SHOPPERS are still flocking to Kent's big retail centres despite the recession forcing everyone to be more cautious with their spending.

Footfall remains strong at popular destinations such as Bluewater and Canterbury, suggesting people are using retail therapy to help lighten the economic gloom.

But sales are down on previous years, indicating that many people still enjoy window shopping even as they tighten the purse strings.

Lloyd Wright, manager of Fremlin Walk in Maidstone, said: "It's natural for people to see what is available, even if they feel they can't afford it. It's retail therapy.

"Spending is reasonably good, which doesn't reflect what we were expecting, although it's still down on last year because some shops still have sales on.

"January and February are normally quiet months because people spend all their money at Christmas. Hopefully things will start to pick up in March."

The Pentagon in Chatham reported a seven per cent increase in customer footfall for the last week of January and about a 2.6 per cent increase overall for the month, but staff were at a loss to explain why.

Marketing manager Melanie Beck said: "We've no idea why more people came here. We all sat there wondering what was going on.

"It was certainly unexpected because all you hear about is doom and gloom, although I can't say there has been a similar pattern with sales. The shopper is definitely more value-conscious now."

Bluewater recorded a two per cent increase in footfall for January as well as a 2.6 per cent increase in sales, with bosses confident the figures will continue to rise.

Asset manager Russell Loveland said: "This is a difficult market, but Bluewater is rising to the challenge.

"Retailers are working to maximise the increased footfall with compelling designs, full-range offers and promotions. Bluewater offers an experience that goes beyond shopping. Whether consumers are looking for an escape from the weather, retail therapy to counter the January blues or a great day out, Bluewater delivers."

Canterbury city centre co-ordinator Philippe Esclasse said the attractiveness of the city was still drawing people in.

"The volume of visitors is no different," he said. "The problem is they spend much less. Canterbury has a lot more to offer than just shopping.

"Sales are stable, but it depends what sort of business you are looking at. People are hunting for bargains more than ever."

Westwood Cross in Thanet reported a healthy January.

General manager Tom Price said: "The feedback from our retailers was that they have been pleasantly surprised with how well sales held up during January, especially given the grim picture painted in the national media.

"This has been supported by my discussions with store managers.

"Retailers are always looking at how well they have done compared with the same period the previous year, and how well they have done against other outlets in the region.

"The evidence is that those at Westwood Cross have generally been doing very well."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Burning pride at being best

KENT and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority has been ranked best in the country by the Audit Commission.

The authority, which oversees the management of the fire service, was judged to be improving strongly in its use of resources and service delivery. It also received the highest value for money rating. Chief fire officer Bill Feeley said: "This is a real cause for celebration."

Go wild with charity card

TECHNICAL problems preventing people from signing up for a new charitable debit card have been resolved.

Port Lympne and Howletts wild animal parks have been promoting the Aspinall Maestro Prepaid Card, with all profits helping save western lowland gorillas. The cards are similar to mobile top-ups in that you can only spend what you have put onto them. For details, visit www.savinggorillas.com.

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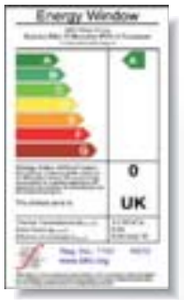

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'KCC child protection is sound'

A REVIEW of child protection services after the Baby P tragedy has concluded there is "sound professional practice" to prevent such a scandal occurring in Kent.

The first of three reports into the county council's children's social services department says there are appropriate child protection plans in place to avoid a repeat of the problems experienced in Haringey, and that there is no evidence of dangerous practice.

However, it also raises concerns about staff vacancies as well as the heavy workloads experienced by some workers and the impact

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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it could have on their ability to do their jobs.

The review, which was discussed by members of KCC's Children's Champions Board on Thursday, was headed by chief executive Peter Gilroy.

He wrote in the report: "On the strength of the evidence seen so far, notwithstanding the concerns identified over vacancies and caseloads, there is a bedrock of sound professional practice and supervision and a clear sense of priority for protection in terms of the work undertaken to safeguard vulnerable children by Kent's children's social services."

Seventeen-month-old Baby P died after sustained abuse at the hands of his mother, her boyfriend and their lodger in Haringey, north London, in August, 2007.

Cllr Leyland Ridings, cabinet member for children and families, said the review of child social services showed there were still many social workers doing a good job.

He said: "There has been a witch-hunt all over the country and it's a difficult environment social workers now have to work in.

"Every time there is a scandal scorn pours onto these people, so it's good to see they are doing a sound job in Kent.

"That's not to say we are doing everything right and there is no room for complacency. What happened in Haringey could happen anywhere if you take your eye off the ball."

TRAGEDY: Baby P

Cllr Ridings said KCC had proposed injecting an additional £1.5 million into children's social services for the next financial year.

The report makes seven recommendations as to how the department can be improved, including staff keeping larger samples of case files and making better use of their time by sharing some responsibilities.

It also recommends employing a senior consultant practitioner who would report directly to the chief executive, as well as several area consultant practitioners whose responsibilities would include strengthening training links with Kent's universities.

Kent Labour leader Cllr Mike Eddy welcomed the positive findings of the report but said he was concerned staff had voiced worries about large caseloads.

He said: "They have all these records and spend so much time making them, but some of that stuff ends up in court and if you turn up without it, all sorts of things can go wrong. You could end up with children who should be in care staying with abusive parents and children with good parents being taken away from them."

Labour questions Thomason role

KENT Labour leader Mike Eddy has criticised the appointment of a former county council employee to assist with the authority's child protection review.

Peter Thomason helped chief executive Peter Gilroy compile the report into the children's social services department, but Cllr Eddy felt it was an unwise choice.

He said: "They were supposed to bring in somebody from outside, but he worked at KCC until 2007. Some of the child protection cases would have started while he still worked here. We were also against the chief executive being involved because he used to be in charge of children's services.

"If you want a review that is crystal clear, get someone who has never been involved with Kent, or from a separate department.

"There's nothing to suggest they have done anything wrong, but it raises questions."

Cllr Leyland Ridings, cabinet member for children and families, could see no reason why Mr Thomason should not have been involved with the review.

Cllr Ridings said: "He left more than two years ago and I am not unhappy with his appointment.

"Speed was of the essence after the Baby P case and it was a question of getting the team together as quickly as possible."

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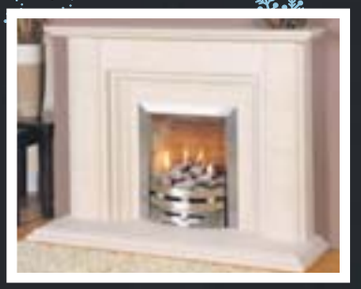

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Picture: ED HILL

CONFERRING: Princess Anne met a variety of people involved in occupational therapy

Royal patron visits therapy conference

THE Princess Royal visited Ashford Business Point on Thursday to attend a conference linked to occupational therapy.

It was organised by the Kent and Medway NHS Social Care Partnership Trust.

Princess Anne was attending as patron of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists.

Occupational therapy helps people to recover from ill health by identifying their needs and using activities to help them regain confidence and recover their physical and mental abilities.

The College of Occupational Therapists describes it as enabling people to achieve health, well-being and life satisfaction through participation in occupation or giving people "skills for the job of living".

During her visit, the Princess Royal met practitioners and academics in the profession and people who have benefited from treatment. She also listened to the opening address and speeches made by delegates.

The all-day conference involved talks by officials from the Department of Health, leading academics and workshops to gather experiences from the trust's therapists to help improve future services and promote the benefits of occupational therapy.

Police defend kids' gay essay contest

By **NICK AMES**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

POLICE have defended their decision to run a gay essay competition for children.

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard said it was part of a series of events demonstrating how "seriously we take hate crime and how committed we are to tackling it".

On Monday kentnews.co.uk, our website, revealed Kent Police are asking children to write an essay as part of a month-long celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history. The story was immediately picked up by national and international newspapers and websites and appeared around the world.

Maidstone Tory MP Ann Widdecombe said: "I would have thought the police had other things to worry about, like catching burglars."

The county force, recognised as one of "the most gay friendly employers in Britain", is running a series of events throughout February.

Events include exhibitions, a quiz, dinner dance and the competition, that includes an under-14s category.

Children are asked to write a 200-word essay on what this month's slogan 'All different, same respect' means to them. The prize is £25.

Kent County Council, which is supporting the month, called KOS Media and asked us to remove from our website the location of the quiz night being held by the police.

The county council also appeared to distance itself from the essay contest by asking us to make it clear the competition was a police initiative.

We contacted police on Monday to discuss the story and were told only the diversity co-ordinator could comment. No-one called back.

But on Wednesday, after the story made international news, the press office issued a statement: "Kent Police is one of the top forces in Britain in combating hate crime, and is continually looking at ways to improve its service. The force takes a lead on diversity issues and is one of only two forces to be graded excellent for its work in that area by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies."

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) history month is a national event which takes place throughout February.

DCC Leppard said: "We are encouraged by the fact the most recent statistics show in February 2008 to January 2009, compared to the same period the previous year, Kent has seen a reduction of five per cent in hate crime.

"We are also detecting 59 per cent of the hate crime offences reported to us – a rise of 23 per cent.

"We are aware there is significant under reporting of homophobic bullying in schools so it's vital we take positive action to tackle these issues whenever we can."

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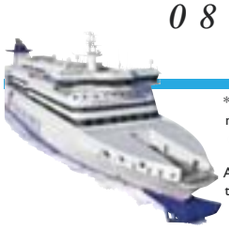

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Gift in a million

PRESENTER Andrea Maclean from the ITV day-time chat show Loose Women visited Demelza Hospice Care for Children in Sittingbourne on Tuesday to offer a donation following her appearance on a TV quiz show.

She presented a gift to the hospice of £75,000 which she won in the special celebrity edition of Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

Maclean was teamed up with GMTV's doctor Hilary Jones and between them they managed to get to the £150,000 mark, each choosing their own charity to support.

The money raised will go towards the work of Demelza House, which provides respite, symptom control, end-of-life care and bereavement support.

More than 300 life-limited children and their families benefit from a wide range of facilities that include a multi-sensory room, soft play area and a jacuzzi.

High cost of EU sheep tag plans

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

FARMERS could face financial ruin if an EU ruling forcing them to electronically tag every sheep in Europe goes ahead as planned.

The regulations, due to be introduced in January next year, are designed to track all individual sheep in the wake of the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001. But British farmers say they will not be able to afford the technology and may take to the streets in protest if the EU does not back down.

Kevin Attwood, Kent chairman of the National Farmers' Union, said the legislation was a serious issue for many of his peers.

He added: "We are dead against it for several reasons – mainly the cost of the implants and the machine that reads them. But at the end of the day, how will anybody actually benefit from it?

"Some farmers have been asking themselves serious questions because their returns have been pretty minimal and this new ruling could be the final straw."

The average profit for a sheep farmer is just £6,000 per year, which is as about as much as a tag reader is expected to cost.

Farmers argue British sheep are already identified by numbers and batch movements recorded. That, in addition to restrictions on movement during disease outbreaks, is sufficient to combat further epidemics, they say.

Alan West, secretary of the Romney Sheep Breeders' Society, said he would not be surprised if farmers protested about the plans.

Most UK sheep farmers have been against the plans since they were first made public, and they have now received backing from organisations in Spain, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden.

South West England MEP Neil Parish, who is chairman of the European Parliament's agriculture committee, has tabled a resolution calling for individual sheep identification to be voluntary.

HIGH PRICE: Farmers say electronic sheep tagging is simply too expensive for them

Frank Languish, who owns thousands of sheep grazing on Romney Marsh, said he welcomed the new technology but felt the EU could handle the situation differently.

Mr Languish, who is also chairman of the British Wool Marketing Board, said: "If we are going to be forced into it then we want to see some benefits. There are a lot of issues that haven't been entirely thought through."

South East MEP Richard Ashworth, who lives in Folkestone and comes from a family of farmers, said he shared farmers' views.

He said: "This is new generation technology that works extraordinarily well in the laboratory but is not going to be 100 per cent accurate on a wet Romney Marsh in January. Anything less than 100 per cent is corrupt."

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Medway in focus

Project offers historical snapshot of towns

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A DAZZLING collection of more than 4,000 images will help document the ever-changing face of Medway.

Set up by photographer Alex Roscow of Mosh Productions, the Medway Project seeks to keep a record of both popular and rarely visited locations before widespread development alters the landscape forever.

The completed collection will go on display at various art exhibitions, while there are also plans to release individual prints and a book for people to buy.

Mr Roscow said the initial idea was to simply take thousands of pictures from around Medway, while the regeneration angle came later.

He explained: "Just across the road from where I used to live in Rochester, a housing development was built on top of an orchard.

"I used to play there with my friends when I was younger, but I soon realised nobody had any pictures of it.

"Now that it's gone, nobody will ever be able to see what it used to look like. It would be quite sad if that happened to all these other areas that are going to be developed.

"The idea to gather this archive was secondary to the original plan of creating a montage of different areas in Medway.

LOCATIONS: The Medway Project contains hundreds of photographs taken of locations in the area

"We've thrown lots of different ideas around, such as letting the images flow from one side to the other in different categories.

"So you could have all the rural pictures together, all the suburban pictures together and so on."

A website – www.medwayproject.co.uk – has been set up to document the progress made by Mr Roscow and the other photographers working with him.

So far they have taken almost 1,400 pictures around the towns, leaving them about 2,600 short of their target.

The website also invites people to leave comments about the project, as well as suggest 'hidden gem' locations the photographers may not be aware of.

Mr Roscow said: "All the main tourist attractions have been taken care of, and we are now looking for interesting spots to photograph within the Medway Towns.

"Things you may not notice unless you know they are there.

"For example, there is a footpath in Gillingham that leads to a little church.

"That footpath is the only way you can get there, so a lot of people have probably never seen it before.

"It's even been interesting studying areas we thought we knew well, as even in those sorts of places there are things we never noticed before."

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Get the Kylie treatment

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KYLIE Minogue's former massage therapist is now giving the people of Kent a taste of the celebrity lifestyle.

Ben Barnett, who has also worked on the weary muscles of Premiership footballers, has now opened a centre at a leading hotel.

He says he has developed one of the most powerful massage systems ever and has brought the stress-busting magic to a Kent village.

Mr Barnett has teamed up with award-winning hotelier and chef Gavin Oakley to launch Hydrotherm massage treatments at The White Cliffs Hotel.

The loft of the historic hotel in St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, near Dover, has been converted into a micro-spa and two-bedroom apartment, both of which can be booked by guests looking for a VIP experience.

Mr Barnett, who has taught the system around the world, said: "Hydrotherm massage aids deep relaxation, relieves stress, eases joint and muscle stiffness and provides emotional release."

Unlike conventional massage, clients lie face-up on pillows filled with warm water, allowing Mr Barnett to use their body weight to give the perfect depth of massage.

POP PRINCESS: Kylie Minogue has been among the celebrity clients of massage therapist Ben Barnett, inset, who has teamed up with the White Cliffs Hotel

The entire treatment is done without the client turning over, which means no uncomfortable face holes or pressure on the ribs, he said.

The massage is said to be particularly good for expectant mums, who can enjoy the treatment even in the late stages of pregnancy. Mr Barnett said: "I combine physical therapy with a form of guided meditation, which helps to reconnect muscles with the brain and allows you to relearn how to use problem areas more effectively.

"Whether you just want to know where your aching back started from or you want to release your fears about an important future event, the treatment helps you unlock the secrets held in your body."

He qualified in massage more than a decade ago and as a former professional footballer he knows the strains modern life can place on the body.

Mr Barnett has done live demonstrations on national television, trained more than 1,000 therapists, and treated celebrity clients including Kylie, the Tottenham Hotspur football team, top golfers and a host of professional athletes.

Hotel owner Mr Oakley said: "We wanted to provide a special and unique spa experience, so I'm delighted to be working with Ben. He's a talented and experienced therapist with an exceptional pedigree."

And despite the Hollywood touch, you don't need to be on a celebrity salary either.

Individual treatments start from £20, with massage treatments starting at £50 per hour. Options include reiki, auricular acupuncture, and Hydrotherm transformational massage.

Day packages cost £99 per person and include a Hydrotherm transformational massage, reiki, and what is called five-point protocol. For more information, phone 01304 852229 or visit thewhitecliffs.com.

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Turner Contemporary Open 2009 Call for Artworks

A new exhibition, organised by Turner Contemporary, showcasing the work of artists who live, work or have studied in Kent. The exhibition is open to artists living and working in Kent and artists based outside the county who have graduated from Kent art colleges since 2000.

2009 Selectors:
Martin Clark, Artistic Director, Tate St Ives
Laura Ford, Artist
Sarah Martin, Exhibitions Curator, Turner Contemporary
Hilde Teerlinck, Director, Frac Nord-Pas de Calais

For further information on how to apply, conditions of entry and to download a submissions form please visit www.turnercontemporary.org or send an A4 SAE to: Turner Contemporary Open Co-ordinator, 17-18 The Parade, Margate, Kent, CT9 1EY quoting 'Turner Open'.

Closing date for submissions: **Friday 3 April 2009**
Exhibition dates: **27 June – 6 September 2009**
Turner Contemporary Project Space, Margate

www.turnercontemporary.org
T: 01843 280261

Police force through five per cent tax hike

Extra cash for bobbies on the beat

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE part of your council tax bill used to pay for the police will be increased by nearly five per cent.

Officers say the funds will be invested directly in an extra eight neighbourhood task teams.

Members of Kent Police Authority (KPA) voted for the rise, which will mean a 12p a week increase for the average band D household, at a meeting on Wednesday.

Ann Barnes, the authority's chair, told KOS Media: "It is not easy to put taxes up by even a small amount, especially in this economic climate but we think it is a small price to pay for the service."

With an increase of 4.99 per cent in police council tax, the force's budget for 2009-10 was set at £277 million, £10m more than last year. Around 30 per cent of this is from taxpayers, the rest comes from central government.

Kent Council Council is planning an increase of 2.44 per cent to its share of the bill – increasing Band D bills to £1,026, while Medway council Band D residents' total bill is set to increase by £1 a week to £1,093.50.

In the KCC area borough, district and parish councils will also add their own increases to bills.

An additional eight teams will now join those in place to cover all 13 districts in Kent and Medway and there will be 48 more officers on the streets.

However, one member of the KPA, Cllr Mark Reckless, believed the extra task teams could be provided without any increase in police tax.

'Slush fund'

The Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Rochester and Strood said that while he welcomed the addition of more task teams, he criticised KPA members for voting in favour of the rise.

He said the force's 'insurance reserve' was being treated as a 'slush fund' for money that was not needed.

"When unemployment is going up and wages are being cut, we should share some of that with everyone else across Kent and not push through the biggest increase we can," he said.

Mark Gilmartin, the KPA's chief executive, said the 'general reserve' was among the lowest of police authorities in the country: "When working in a 24/7 emergency services environment there is always the risk you will need to call on reserve funds to deal with a situation."

Mrs Barnes said that KPA, together with the police authorities in Essex and Sussex, had the lowest police council tax in the country.

Chief Constable Mike Fuller added: "Each district will now have a team dedicated to specific areas to deal with longer-term issues.

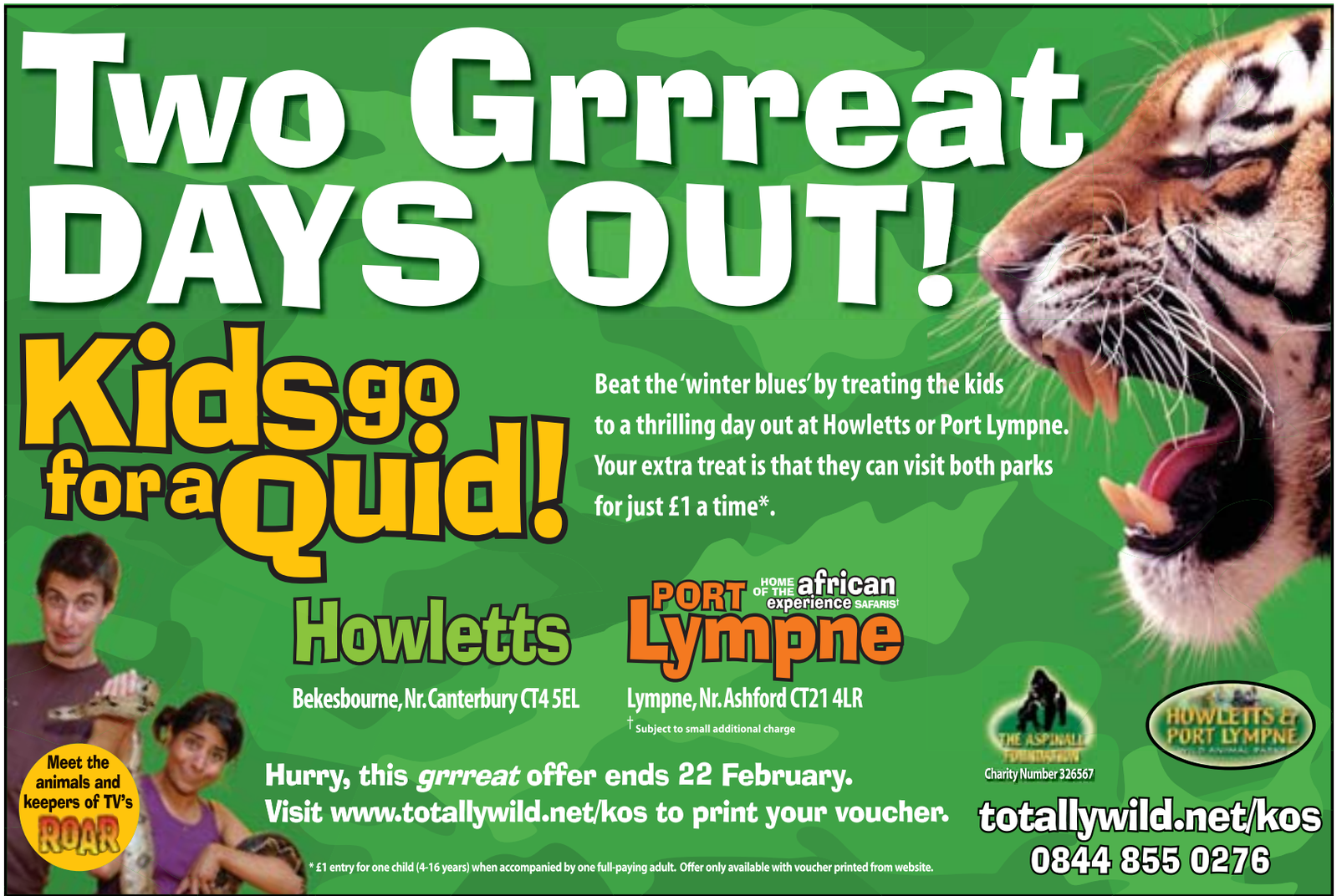
"We will have an extra 48 officers out on our streets and I'm confident they will make an impact. The additional teams will bring a huge benefit operationally and will improve the quality of life of residents."

• *Police expect bid for more tasers to be successful. See p18.*

Power cuts prompt calls for action

GRAVESHAM Borough Council has demanded urgent action to resolve the power cuts which have disrupted Gravesend traders.

Council leader Mike Snelling has written to EDF Energy calling for a meeting to explain the problem. After a blackout in December, the council was assured it was a "one-off". But since then there have been a number of further cuts.



Freight depot appeal angers campaigners

THOUSANDS of residents made their comments known on the revised proposal for Kent International Gateway development before the final deadline for public consultation.

The first public consultation for the original application for Kent International Gateway (KIG), submitted in October, 2007, received about 2,440 responses.

Members of the public were asked to comment again by letter or email on new information added to the proposal, by February 6.

Maidstone council received a total of about 3,500 responses, some of which will be from the same people who commented on the first consultation.

The application for a road-rail freight depot incorporates plans to install buildings for warehousing, distribution and offices, research, development and light industrial units at the site just off the M20 at Hollingbourne.

It was recently revealed at a public anti-KIG meeting that the applicant and its investor AXA has lodged an appeal for the application to go straight to a public inquiry.

The developer wants to bypass Maidstone council as it claims the authority is taking too long to reach its planning decision.

Council bosses are opposing the appeal to go straight to a public inquiry, arguing the delay was caused by the Highways Agency investigating the traffic implications of the proposals.

A spokesman for the council said: "We have not heard anything more about the appeal – as far as we know it has not been validated."

The lodged appeal has angered members of the StopKIG campaign, who say the applicant is trying to stop the people of Maidstone having their say on the freight depot plan.

Read up on charity

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

STUDENTS at a Kent university have been collecting disused textbooks from secondary schools to send to pupils in Africa.

The charity READ International, which was founded by Rob Wilson from Tunbridge Wells while he was studying at Nottingham University, is a student-led project with 17 branches across the UK.

Louise Phillips, communications leader for READ at the University of Kent, said the volunteers were about a third of the way to meeting their target of 22,000 text books by June, and had raised £2,500 of the £7,500 needed to cover the costs of shipping the collection to Tanzania.

The conservation student said: "Each book project covers a different region in Tanzania, ours is Mongoro.

"They have got a very closely related syllabus, the main problem is that they are aiming to increase the number of students but the Government does not have the provision to satisfy the demand. Without our intervention by 2010 the ratio of textbooks to children will worsen from 1:5 to 1:15."

The students run regular book collections around secondary schools and Miss Phillips urged more schools to come forward and take part.

Asked why she chose to get involved with the project, the 22-year-old said: "I was looking to do some volunteering and I thought this was ideal. It is so important, it's addressing education and that is the best way to alleviate poverty.

"It is cost effective and it is getting students to do it so there are low overheads. It works really well."

During Student Volunteering week, February 23 to March 2, volunteers are taking part in Britain's Biggest Book Drive from which READ International aims to raise £17,000 across all its projects at different universities and collect 34,000 textbooks.

Socially responsible company Better World Books is selling novels collected by READ and giving the charity half of the profits.

Miss Phillips said collection boxes had already been set up around the university's Canterbury campus for students to deposit their disused books, including university level text books that are not of use in Tanzania and novels.

She added: "It is a system that improves access to education in Tanzania whilst promoting global citizenship, recycling, social enterprise and volunteering in the UK through the presentations that we give to donating schools."

For more information email kent@readbookproject.org.uk or call 07969 546494.

DEMAND: Tanzania's syllabus is similar to in the UK, but schools cannot afford books

HIGH-VOLTAGE: Electrical pulses are sent through a patient's brain during the treatment

Shock therapy on the increase

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE USE of a controversial psychiatric treatment that sends currents of electricity through the brain is on the rise in Kent.

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is mainly used to treat patients with severe depression when they have not responded to other forms of treatment.

Anti-psychiatry Scientology organisation the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) claimed the use of the therapy in Kent and Medway has risen 68 per cent over the last five years.

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, which is responsible for mental health in the county, confirmed it had received a Freedom of Information request from the CCHR but said there had been only a "slight increase" in the use of ECT.

Marie Dodd, the trust's director of operations, said: "The delivery of ECT is undertaken in line with Nice [National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence] guidelines.

"It is used to gain fast and short-term improvement of severe symptoms after all other treatment options have failed, or when the situation is thought to be life-threatening, including when people have stopped eating or drinking as a result of depression.

"We do not support people scaremongering about a nationally approved and safe treatment as this may potentially discourage people, who could benefit from this treatment, from accepting it as part of their care."

She said the decision to give ECT to a patient was made on a case-by-case basis and is delivered at one of the trust's three centres in Dartford, Maidstone or Ashford.

Research shows many patients find the treatment helpful but others can experience emotional and physical side-effects.

Paul Farmer, chief executive of the mental health charity Mind, said: "Mind has found people's experiences of ECT vary enormously. When we conducted a survey of people who have received ECT we found 84 per cent experienced side effects such as memory loss, difficultly concentrating, headaches and dizziness. Having said this, some do find it helpful in alleviating depression and others have credited it with saving their lives.

"People should not be prevented from choosing this treatment, but anyone opting for ECT must always be fully informed."

The trust's information leaflet for patients on ECT explains how the electricity is given under a general anaesthetic and with a muscle-relaxing drug so there is little movement of the body. While the patient is unconscious two electrodes are placed on the temples and produce a series of brief high-voltage elective pulses, about 60 to 70 a second, for three to five seconds, which causes a seizure or fit.

As a treatment, ECT has existed since the 30s and, although it is now given under Nice guidelines and is never given without anaesthetic and muscle-relaxants in the UK or the US, it has picked up negative connotations. It features in Ken Kesey's novel One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, which later became a film, and more recently to similar effect in Clint Eastwood's Changeling.

There is no clear explanation for how ECT works but it is known to adjust the levels of brain chemicals involved in mood regulation, such as serotonin and noradrenaline, and to enhance the activity of dopamine.

More information about ECT can be found on the websites of Mind and the trust.

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The Lakeside Wedding Fair
21–22 February

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Daily catwalk shows:
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11.30am / 1.30pm / 3.30pm
6.00pm / 7.30pm

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www.lakeside.uk.com

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Kent County Council

Limits are limits – not targets

Knowing the limit isn't just about knowing the top speed that you can drive on any particular road, it's about knowing the limit for the weather conditions and other factors around you that all have to be taken into account for safe driving.

Driving a car at 70mph on a motorway may be fine on a sunny day, but it's obviously not going to be appropriate on an icy winter morning. Driving at a safe speed means continually assessing the conditions around you and adjusting your speed accordingly, staying within the limits – not aiming to drive at the limit just because you're allowed to.

It's also important to remember that the type of vehicle you drive could mean that you have a different speed restriction than a car.

The Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership issued 60,008 speeding tickets last year and many people ended up with a £60 fine and 3 points on their licence because they didn't know the limit for their vehicle.

Some drivers thought they were within the limit at 70mph but in fact should have been doing 60mph.

The diagram shows the designated limits for each type of vehicle.

Receiving points on your licence, receiving a temporary ban or even losing your licence can be devastating to your career and, ultimately, speeding can end lives.

You can make sure that you know the limits by checking online at **www.kmscp.org**

KENT & MEDWAY

	built up area (street lit)*	single carriageway	dual carriageway	motorway
	30mph	60mph	70mph	70mph
	30mph	50mph	60mph	60mph
	30mph	50mph	60mph	60mph†
<7.5 tonne	30mph	50mph	60mph	70mph‡§
>7.5 tonne	30mph	40mph	50mph	60mph

These speed limits apply to all roads, unless signs show otherwise
*A 30mph limit applies on all roads with street lighting, unless signs show otherwise
†70mph if less than 12 metres in length ‡60mph if articulated or towing

Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Maidstone

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	22.02.09	B2163 Penfold Hill, Leeds	Road closure – bridge works

Swale

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
16.02.09	20.02.09	Warden Road, Eastchurch	Road closure – energy supply work

Canterbury

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
16.02.09	20.02.09	A257 Longport, Canterbury	Temporary traffic signals – telecoms works

Tonbridge & Malling

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
16.02.09	25.02.09	A25 Maidstone Road, Borough Green	Temporay traffic lights – carriageway works

Shepway

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
16.02.09	28.02.09	A259 Dymchurch	Temporary traffic signals – sea defence works

Sevenoaks

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
16.02.09	01.10.09	Bradbourne Vale Road at junction with Bradbourne Road	Temporary traffic signals – gas mains works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

Traffic Officers will keep Kent moving

Kent Highway Services is committed to tackling the growing problems of congestion on Kent's roads, so we'll soon be launching the trial of new Traffic Officers, similar to the Highways Agency service you will already have seen on the county's motorways.

Our primary objective is to 'Keep Kent Moving' and in doing so help make your journey as safe and as reliable as possible. Where unforeseen incidents lead to additional congestion, our Traffic Officers will help by coordinating the resources of other highways services, liaising with the emergency services, managing the traffic and re-opening routes as soon as it is safe to do so.

You'll be able to identify these officers by the branded Kent Highway Services vehicles and high visibility uniform, clearly marking them as Traffic Officers.

In addition to this, two of these officers will carry bicycles in their vehicles, providing them with the ability to work their way through congested traffic and then deal with the cause of the congestion.

Kent Highway Services Traffic Officers will be trained by Kent Police and accredited with delegated Police powers to effectively manage traffic situations. They will be able to stop and direct traffic (both vehicles and pedestrians), close roads, set diversions and, where necessary, lawfully ask for an individual's name and address.

It will be an offence not to comply with directions given by a Kent Highway Services Traffic Officer, but we hope that Kent's road users will work with us, so everyone can keep moving.

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

POPULAR: Woodlands Primary School hall is being hired for pole dancing lessons

Head's wife takes up pole position at school dance class

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE HEAD of a primary school is hiring out a hall to mums to practice their pole-dancing skills.

Nick Fiddaman is the head of Woodlands Primary School in Gillingham.

He said the scheme is bringing in extra cash for the school and the poles are removed after the Monday evening sessions.

A six-week course costs around £35 and even his wife Helen has completed it, but found it so taxing she did not carry on to complete the more advanced course.

He said: "It is all for mums and members of the community. The children have no involvement with this.

Too difficult

"Pole dancing is one of many dance clubs we do and is very popular. It's not for children.

"We have put up about eight poles, and the women do a six-week course. I have never tried it, but my wife did for me. Physically it's very, very, hard.

"I can usually monitor most of the classes, but obviously I'm not allowed to watch this one so I asked my wife if she would do it.

"She was relatively interested, so I asked her to join up and she did the six weeks.

"It was very tastefully done and very hard. She didn't go on to the intermediate course because it was physically too difficult."

He said he brings in outside instructors to run the courses and the school takes a cut from their income for the supply of the room and other facilities.

Mr Fiddaman said: "Members of my staff take the poles down before the children come in the next day.

"The pole dancing is only run from 7-9pm on a Monday evening."

Asked if Mrs Fiddaman was now doing dancing at home for him, he said: "No. But can I point out the whole thing is based on fitness more than anything else."

And when it was pointed out pole dancing has other connotations, he said: "Yes and no. I know it does, but the way this is done is people are shown different moves and different types of fitness training.

"From our point of view it has been one of the more successful things because different people are coming in."

Asked to confirm there is nothing sexual about the classes, he said: "I can honestly say I can't tell you because I don't go in there.

"It's the ladies that do it – they come in their T-shirts and whatever, and it is run by a group of ladies for a group of ladies."

He said there have been no complaints.

"These are normal people doing a normal activity in an evening."

The school was featured on a BBC Inside Out programme.

A BBC spokesman said: "One of the ventures is pole dancing, which takes place in the school's dance studio in the evenings. Such activities have helped fund things like their all-weather footie pitch.

"And they have also encouraged parents into the school, with many of them becoming more involved with school life as a result."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Tory backs Autism Bill

A CONSERVATIVE MP has backed a bill that, if made law, will end the postcode lottery of autism services across the country.

The Autism Bill is currently going through Parliament and will have its second reading on February 27, so far 11 MPs from all parties have co-sponsored the bill.

"I am pleased to sponsor this very important bill," Jacqui Lait, the MP for Beckenham, said.

"I have long been concerned about the care of those with learning disabilities and mental health problems and have worked hard on this issue in Beckenham.

"I hope this bill will succeed so that at least one issue for people with autism can be alleviated."

The National Autistic Society (NAS), along with 13 other autism charities, is backing the bill.

Mark Lever, the charity's chief executive, said: "We are delighted to have the support of Ms Lait and strongly urge other MPs to follow her lead.

"The Autism Bill is a huge step forward in ensuring a brighter future for people with this serious, lifelong and disabling condition, but we urgently need support to make this law.

"Without the right help autism can have a profound and sometimes devastating effect and we will keep campaigning until we see real change at a local level."

A recent campaign by the NAS called I Exist revealed that many people with autism do not have the kind of support that would help them achieve their potential in adulthood.

One in three adults with autism experience serious mental health problems as a result.

Mr Lever added: "The Autism Bill aims to place a duty on local authorities to recognise and fulfil their responsibilities towards people with autism."

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* Price when on the market with Cluttons at the end of November 2008

Police taser bid 'success'

AN EXTRA 66 taser stun guns could soon be available to police officers working on the county's streets, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

Kent Police say they will find out soon whether their bid for a share of £8 million of Home Office funding for the weapon has been successful. Assistant Chief Constable Steve Harris said: "We believe we will get what we have asked for in the near future.

"However, there are only so many available for the entire country, so it depends how many forces bid for them. We bid for 66 tasers. Our armed response teams use them already. This bid is for wider use, to extend taser deployment beyond firearms."

The weapons will be split between tactical teams at the force's headquarters in Maidstone and other policing areas, the roads policing unit and the automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) team. Asked in what situations officers will be using the weapons, which shoot barbed darts charged with 50,000 volts, he said: "Each deployment has to be made on a risk assessment. Tactical deals with pre-planned operations, such as where there might be violent offenders."

He said the other tasers would be available "spontaneously" as well as for planned operations and could be used if there is a threat of violence from a weapon other than a firearm.

Potentially lethal

Chief Constable Mike Fuller told a meeting of the Kent Police Authority (KPA) in December he had applied for extra weapons after Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced 10,000 tasers would be made available nationally.

However, the Metropolitan Police Authority said it would not immediately take up the offer because it has the "potential to cause fear and damage public confidence".

ACC Harris said: "We are proportionate in the way we are seeking to extend use.

"Some forces applied for these for every operational officer. We have been selective and used risk assessment. It is for definite sections rather than general application."

He said tasers had been in use since 2005 and there had been 30 operational uses and the weapons had been fired three times.

Tasers are already widely used by police in North America. In December, a report by Amnesty International claimed 334 people in the USA had died in the last seven years after being stunned by a taser. Amnesty said its report showed the weapons were potentially lethal and open to abuse. ACC Harris said tasers were another tool to add to a kit – that includes body armour and a metal baton – that protects officers from injury.

Asked if Kent criminals were becoming more violent, he said: "Not really. We have incidents involving extremely violent people and we try to minimise injury to everyone.

"Assaults on officers seem to be going down and if pointing a taser at an offender makes them compliant then no-one gets hurt and it does not even have to be fired."

After Mr Fuller spoke to KPA members on Wednesday, chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "We are comfortable and reassured about the way he is going to deploy them."

STUN GUN: Kent Police already use tasers

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

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Saturday Observer
KENT ON SUNDAY

Policy delay angers Gurkhas

RETIRED Gurkhas marched through Folkestone in protest at the Government's delay in announcing a new immigration policy for them.

A High Court ruling in September stated the current system of allowing only soldiers who retired after 1997 to remain in the UK was unlawful, and ordered the Home Office to come up with new rules within three months. Almost five months later an amended policy has still not been announced.

Folkestone town councillor and former Gurkha soldier Dhan Gurung, who organised Tuesday's march, said many of his friends had to rely on others for money while they awaited the decision.

He said: "People who put their lives at risk for this country should be allowed to live and work here and receive equal rights.

"Nine veterans have already died waiting for this decision, and the rest are suffering because they' a not allowed to work.

"It's disgraceful, really shameful."

The Home Office says it is still considering its policy changes to ensure they will be fair for all Gurkhas.

MARTHA TRUST

Geraint Jones Golf Day
Prince's Golf Club, Sandwich Bay
Friday 13th March 2009

Geraint Jones MBE
England and Kent Cricketer

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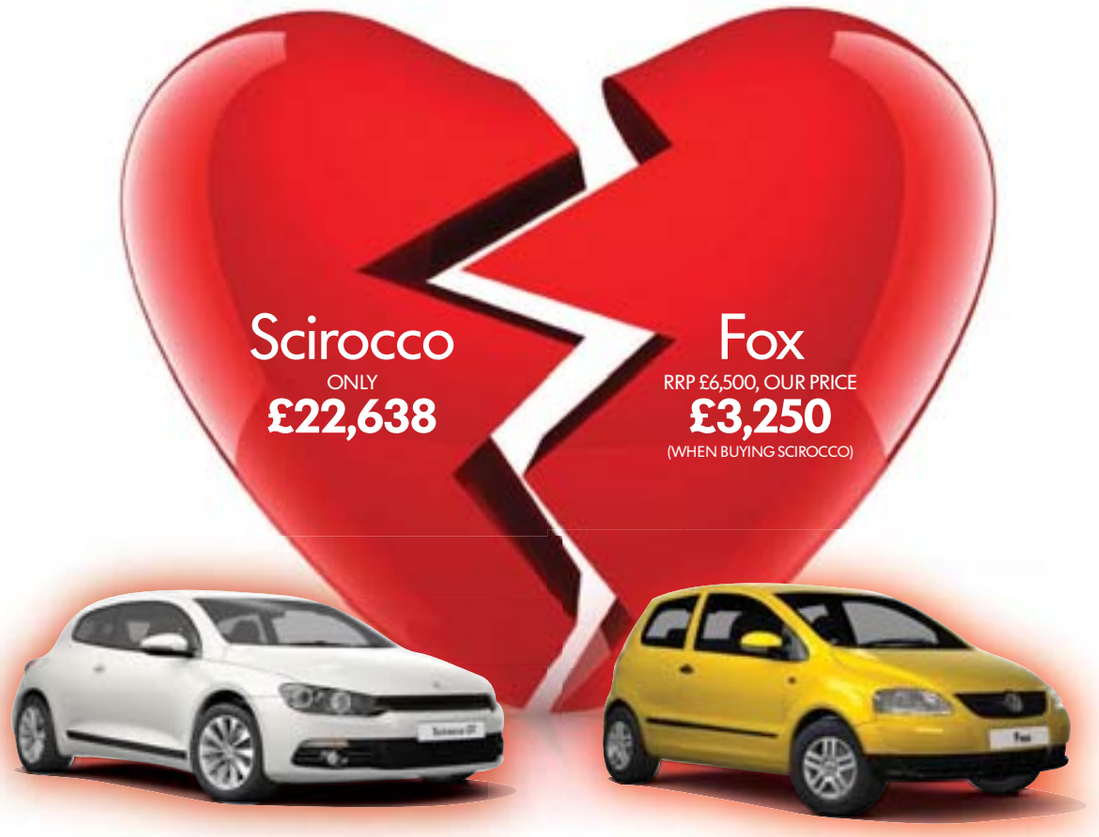

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Girl pushed boundaries of survival

A COUPLE say their young daughter is a walking miracle after surviving at the bottom of a swimming pool for 18 minutes.

Doctors told them to expect the worst – and they were convinced little Oluchi Nwaubani from Bromley, now three, would never recover.

But her parents Junior and Tayo never gave up hope – they knew their daughter would somehow pull through with the help of the life-support equipment. And she stunned medics by doing just that after starting to breathe on her own after just three days.

Oluchi was given just a two per cent chance of surviving the horror last September, and even then would be left a vegetable unable to walk, talk or even move. But the icy waters in the pool are credited with helping to save her.

The then two-year-old had been at a friend's and wandered around the back of the house in Bromley, where she tumbled into a covered pool, but no-one knew she was there.

The alarm was raised and eventually the distressing discovery made – but by that time, doctors said she had been unconscious underwater for 18 minutes, triple the time for the average person's brain to survive without a vital supply of oxygen and double the time a heart can keep going.

An air ambulance took her to the Royal London Hospital, but doctors couldn't do much to raise hopes. She was moved to Great Ormond Street and Tayo said doctors wanted to turn off her life-support machine. They refused, and just three months later Oluchi has made an astonishing recovery.

Tayo, 40, said: "She really is a miracle girl."

MOVING FORWARD: MP Howard Stoate, inset, has met with the transport secretary to discuss extending Crossrail to Ebbsfleet

On track to airport link

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A PROPOSED extension of the £15.9 billion Crossrail project could result in a direct link between Kent and Heathrow for the first time.

Transport secretary Geoff Hoon has agreed to look into the possibility of including Ebbsfleet International and other north Kent stations in the scheme, and says he would like to visit the area to find out more.

Current plans for the 74-mile network see it running from Maidenhead in Berkshire to Abbey Wood in London and Shenfield in Essex, with stops throughout the capital, including at Heathrow.

But at the request of Dartford Labour MP Howard Stoate, Mr Hoon has given the clearest indication yet that north Kent residents may not miss out, as was first thought.

Dr Stoate said he believed the economic and environmental case for extending Crossrail into the area was now "overwhelming", adding: "In my view, the argument in favour of extending Crossrail out to north Kent is very strong.

"Not only would it enable residents to travel direct to Heathrow by rail for the first time, but it will also create a direct link between Heathrow and the international station at Ebbsfleet. I'm delighted therefore that the minister has agreed to look again at the viability of the scheme."

Dr Stoate met with Mr Hoon to discuss the matter late last month. In a follow-up letter, Mr Hoon wrote: "I acknowledge the case you make in favour of extending Crossrail out to Ebbsfleet so passengers in north Kent will have a direct rail link with Heathrow. I will talk to officials about the viability of this scheme and I would be pleased to visit Ebbsfleet with you in the near future to learn more about this extension."

Crossrail is the UK's biggest transport project since the Channel Tunnel, and work is expected to begin next year with the first trains due to be running by 2017.

Matt Clarke, chief executive of Kent International Airport at Manston, said: "Any improvement to Kent's transport infrastructure will benefit the future operation of Kent International Airport because easier access to and from the county increases our catchment area."

Mum's the word

Caring Dorothy's national award

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

BEST: Dorothy Higgins has been named community mum of the year by a magazine

A MOTHER who organises days out for disabled children and their families has won a national mum of the year award.

Dorothy Higgins, 42, from Faversham, set up Family Activities for the Disabled in Swale (FADS) after her eight-year-old daughter Joanna was born with spina bifida and DiGeorge syndrome, a rare genetic disorder.

Tesco Magazine has recognised Mrs Higgins' dedication to the charity, which now supports 126 families, by naming her community mum of the year.

She said: "I'm quite sociable, so when Joanna was born I was able to find out about the various benefits and facilities that were available to us quite easily.

"But in terms of people offering advice and activities, Faversham wasn't covered very well at all. When I spoke to other parents of disabled children in the area, a lot of them had never even heard of disability living allowance and I thought that was outrageous. People often need help filling out forms and knowing what to do, so I thought if nobody else wants to do it I might as well do it myself."

Events

Mrs Higgins' tireless efforts for FADS, which she set up with help from a friend and staff at Swale Carers Centre, include seeking grants and funding as well as organising lunch events, raffles and themed evenings to raise money.

The cash raised by the charity has been spent on everything from barbecues and art workshops to outings to theme parks, theatres and firework displays.

In addition to her work with FADS, Mrs Higgins also finds time to chair her local residents' group and serve on the board of the Kent Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

She said: "When FADS first started there were only about 23 families signed up, but now there are about 130 and that's just through word of mouth. It's really lovely to see how supportive everyone has been.

"We've now managed to raise enough money to fund full and part-time care workers, so we can really get into the advisory side of things. We're starting to advertise the posts so that's really exciting."

Mrs Higgins is one of eight mums – including one as yet un-named celebrity – to be recognised by Tesco Magazine this year.

The Prime Minister's wife Sarah Brown and celebrity chef Gordon Ramsey's wife Tana were on the judging panel for the awards, which will be held at the Waldorf Hilton hotel, London, on March 1. Mrs Higgins, who could also be named the overall mum of the year at the event, was nominated by her 14-year-old son Alistair.

She said: "Alistair takes his sister to Beavers every week and I nominated him for a young carers award, so I think he's just getting his own back. It was a bit of a shock really but it's nice to be recognised."

NHS invites you to call for help

HEALTH bosses have urged people to use their free helpline number to raise any questions about the NHS in Kent.

NHS West Kent said the number can be used to register with a GP, find the nearest NHS dentist, contact district or community nurses and other healthcare staff as well as to report any concerns.

Julia Ross, the primary care trust's director of civic engagement, said: "People can use the free helpline as a gateway to information about all local NHS services and other organisations which can help and support patients."

The helpline team can also put patients in touch with support groups and voluntary organisations and is responsible for investigating formal complaints.

More than 1,000 people have used the service since October and the line is operated Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm with an answerphone service out of hours. Call the number 08000 850850 for any support or information about the NHS in west Kent.

Tune in to talent of the future

YOUNG musicians will showcase their talents at a recital evening in Bromley, next Saturday.

The works of legendary composers such as Beethoven and Chopin will be played at the event, which has been organised by the Ripley Recitals Association. It will be held in the music room of the Ripley Arts Centre, from 8pm.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £6 for children and students.

Call 020 88519116 for more details.

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Cash boost to volunteers about to restore final ill-fated fighter

Warbird is Defiant to the last

LAST OF THE FEW: The Boulton Paul Defiant was withdrawn from the Battle of Britain after heavy losses, but later met with success as a night fighter during the Blitz. Of 1,800 built, just one remains

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A GRANT of £4,270 has been awarded to a group of volunteers who work to preserve and restore historic aircraft.

The Medway Aircraft Preservation Society (MAPS) received the award, which is to be split over two years, from the Kent Community Foundation grassroots fund for its work at Rochester airport.

MAPS chairman Malcolm Moulton said: "This comes at an opportune time and gives us much-needed help in meeting the rising costs of our operations.

"As an all-volunteer, not-for-profit company, working on a very low budget, we can restore rare aircraft which might not otherwise be available for public display.

INTO BATTLE: Boulton Paul Defiants in flight

"Medway has an international reputation for excellence in this field and the grant is a real encouragement, especially in the centenary year of the UK's aviation industry, which originated in north Kent."

MAPS restores vintage and wartime aircraft for both static display in museums and exhibitions and also to flying condition.

Member Robin Brooks said the conservation centre was due to welcome a rare aircraft next month. The RAF Museum at Hendon is entrusting the centre with its World War Two Boulton Paul Defiant.

Mr Brooks said: "It is an extremely rare aircraft. It is the only one surviving out of 1,800 built. We are chuffed they have chosen us."

The Defiant brought a new, but fatally flawed, concept to two-seat, single-engine fighter aircraft – it had no forward-firing guns.

Its firepower was concentrated in a rear gun turret and Mr Brooks said German fighter pilots soon worked this out and came at the Defiant head-on or from below, where it had no protection. "The aircraft is not in bad condition but it has sat around for the last 20-odd years so it needs a bit of TLC," he said. "It was made in 1940 and served very little, which is shown in its very few flight hours."

Early daylight battles were successful because Luftwaffe pilots mistook Defiants for Hurricanes and attacked them from behind, only to meet a deadly hail of fire.

But this was short-lived and so many were lost that Fighter Command withdrew Defiants from daytime operations.

Mr Brooks said: "The money from the grassroots fund shows they appreciate what we are doing for heritage purposes. It will be used to put Medway back on the map as a great aviation centre."

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Traffic calming team to hit roads

Special officers to be sent to hot spots in bid to prevent gridlock

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

CONGESTION-busting traffic officers will team up with the police to help solve problems on Kent's roads.

The county council scheme, which will cost about £70,000 to set up, will see specially-trained workers sent to deal with breakdowns and other minor incidents.

Maidstone will be the first area to benefit from the programme, with Canterbury expected to be the second before it is rolled out across the rest of the county.

Cllr Keith Ferrin, cabinet member for highways, said the role of the traffic officers would be similar to the one performed by the Highways Agency on the county's motorways.

He said: "When an incident is causing considerable disruption, they will be able to go along and help sort it out.

"For example, if a car was to break down by the side of the river in Maidstone when it's busy, they would be sent to move the vehicle somewhere else because it can become very congested down there.

"What is a minor incident in Kent terms can be major in local terms, and if we think it's appropriate we will send the traffic officers to help. It won't just be a question of them driving around looking for trouble.

"There's no real reason why Maidstone will be targeted first, other than that we have to start somewhere and then build up our experience."

Kent Highway Services is proposing to allow its officers to use bus lanes to reach problem areas quicker, while some will also carry bicycles in their vans.

They will not be required to repair broken-down vehicles.

Cllr Ferrin said he expected the scheme to be up and running by the first week of March.

He said of the cost: "In the normal Kent way, we are being frugal. We have given extra training to some of our existing highway inspectors but if the scheme takes off as we expect it to, we will have to employ more people.

"It will cost about £10,000 for the year, as well as seven vans that cost about £9,000 or £10,000 each.

"We have been talking about doing this for a couple of years but it was necessary to agree things with the police first. We couldn't just take this upon ourselves without them giving us the power to do so.

"I think the police were initially cautious about the idea but now they seem to be very much on board and we are co-operating fully with them."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Welcome to the foal

A HERD of wild horses roaming the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve near Canterbury has seen the first foal of the New Year born.

The Konik wild horses were introduced to the reserve to naturally preserve and protect an area rich in wild and plant life. This project was developed in a partnership between Natural England and the Wildwood Trust.

The Koniks are part of a bold plan to reintroduce the wild horse to Britain, and have been imported as the closest living relatives of the extinct Tarpan, the wild forest horse which roamed Britain in Neolithic times.

Peter Smith, chief executive of the Wildwood Trust, said: "This is part of the plan for developing conservation grazing systems to restore natural ecological processes to help Britain, and in this case Stodmarsh, teem with wildlife."

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The forgotten war

RAF veteran talks about campaign in Asia

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

REMARKABLE memories of World War Two in South East Asia – from the surrender of Japan to the release of the captured soldiers who built the Death Railway – have been shared by a veteran.

Albert Bennett, 94, has been giving talks about his time in the RAF, which included stints in Burma, Singapore and Sumatra, to a variety of audiences for 13 years and his precious recollections have also been archived by the Imperial War Museum.

"It became known as the forgotten war because celebrations in 1945 were in respect of the war in Europe," he said.

"We did then become known as the forgotten army because we were still going out there."

Mr Bennett, who lives in Dartford, was 26 when he was posted to India as an instrument technician to work on the Hurricanes and Dakotas operating in the Burma Campaign.

Stationed in Cawnpore (now Kanpur) he told how the aircraft of Lord Mountbatten, who was the commander in Burma (now officially Myanmar), would come in to be fixed.

"Then I was posted to 155 Squadron in Burma and was with them throughout the campaign," he said. "We were the first squadron operating against the Japanese… I was at the airfield and there when the Japanese envoy arrived to sign the treaties.

"From Rangoon the squadron did the longest flight ever undertaken by Spitfires – 1,400 miles from there to Singapore."

DONATION: Albert Bennett (right) and his brother-in-law Stanley Paine with the standard of the Maidstone branch of the Burma Star Association, which they gave to Maidstone Museum last year

It was there that he experienced the most poignant moment in his service, he said: "Our first job was to release the prisoners from Changi Prison.

"Most were at breaking point – they were prisoners who worked in the Railway of Death. They were like walking skeletons by then and their bandages had gone to rags.

"I was helping an Australian POW to the plane when he fell, cutting his knee. Being a former Boy Scout I bandaged it with my handkerchief and like to think he kept it as a memento of his release."

The notorious Thailand-Burma railway was built by Allied prisoners and civilian forced labourers during the Japanese occupation in 1942 and 1943.

Conditions were horrific and thousands of people died.

During the Burma campaign, which was the longest of the war, British servicemen faced soaring temperatures, monsoons, disease and terrain they were not used to.

Mr Bennett said: "It was tough going, especially working in Cawnpore and there was the monsoon as well as the heat.

"I know of a unit where there were 7,000 personnel and 2,000 were down with heat stroke at the same time.

"Touch wood I was fine, I got out practically unscathed although I nearly lost a finger jumping down from the cockpit of a plane."

Mr Bennett also met some celebrities during his time on the frontline in the Far East – Vera Lynn performed for his squadron and he said she also replied to a letter he wrote to her recently.

"Our commanding officer was Ginger Lacey, the pilot who saved Buckingham Palace by shooting down the plane attacking it during the Battle of Britain," he said.

Mr Bennett is also supportive of the Gurkha Justice Campaign after witnessing their bravery during the war and hearing stories as a boy from his father, who fought with them in India during World War One.

The Rochester-born former office equipment engineer will be giving a talk on his experiences to an audience at Maidstone Museum on February 26.

• ***Money from the £3 entry fee will be donated to the Rainbow Trust, a charity which Mr Bennett has been supporting for 13 years. To reserve tickets call 01622 602 838.***

HORRIFIC: Thousands died during the building of the Thailand to Burma railway

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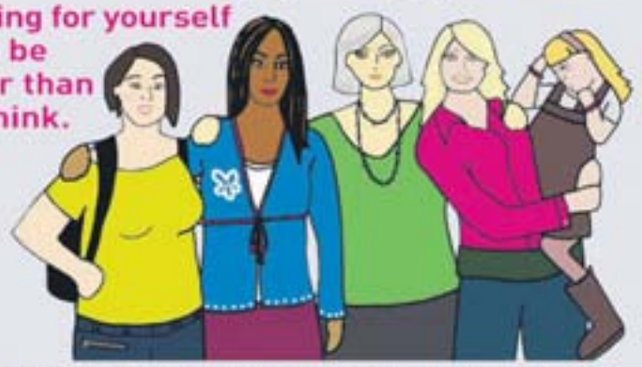
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Machine drop lands £10,000 fine on to vending company

A COMPANY has been fined £10,000 after a 26-stone vending machine fell on a shop worker in Maidstone.

Maidstone council took Westways Vending Limited to court last Thursday for failing to comply with health and safety laws.

The company, which supplies food and drink vending machines, had attempted to deliver a 26-stone coffee machine to WHSmiths in Week Street, Maidstone.

Only one employee was sent to deliver the machine and they were helped to manoeuvre the machine upstairs by a member of WHSmith staff.

Halfway up the machine fell on the WHSmith employee, who was left with leg injuries.

Westways Vending Limited pleaded guilty to failing to ensure people in their employment were not exposed to risks to health and safety.

The prosecution also stated that the company had failed to carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

The assessment should have identified two of its own employees needed to be present during the delivery and a trolley should have been used to handle a mach-ine of that size and weight.

The company had also failed to provide adequate training to its employees.

Westways Vending Limited was fined £10,000, ordered to pay prosecution costs of £2,656.52 and a victim surcharge of £15 at Maidstone Magistrates Court.

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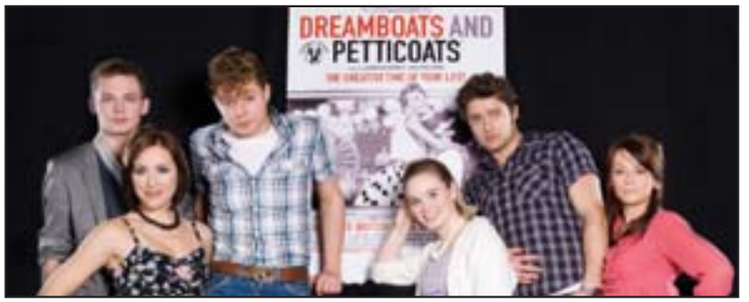

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KOS Media has teamed up with the producers of the musical to give four lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show plus a copy of the CD Dreamboats and Petticoats Two.

Dreamboats and Petticoats became one of the biggest selling albums of the decade last year, with Dreamboats and Petticoats Two rocketing to number two in the charts within the first week of its release.

Now, inspired by the albums, the show features songs from Roy Orbison and Chuck Berry to name a few, and it runs at Bromley's Churchill Theatre from February 19-28.

The story is set in 1961, when emotions run high as talented musicians Norman and Bobby compete to win the hearts of their fans – and more importantly, the gorgeous Laura. But when Laura shows she's no slouch with the guitar, fame beckons…

Starring Ben Freeman and Scott Bruton, one of this year's X Factor finalists, it's definitely a show to remember!

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Q: Which X Factor finalist stars in Dreamboats and Petticoats?

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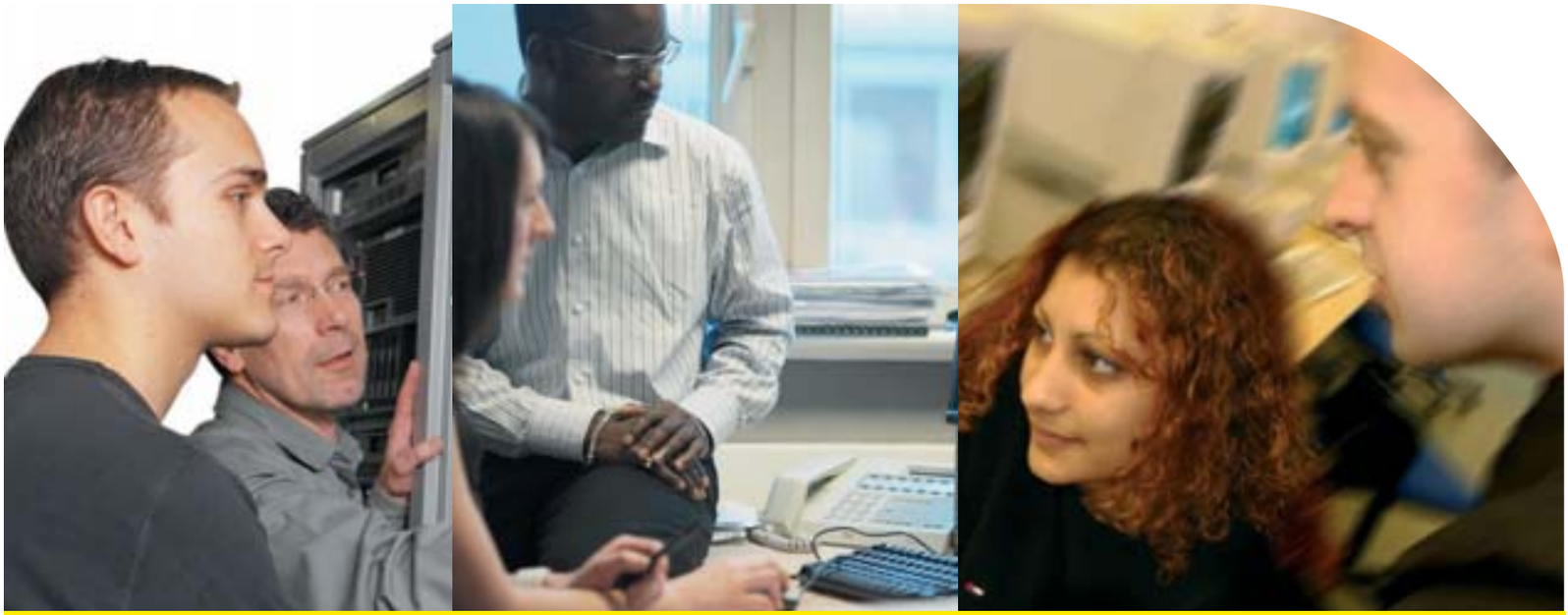

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New exhibition at Charles Darwin's home will be the natural selection for visitors

On the threshold of

BRILLIANT MIND: Charles Darwin

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A NEW exhibition at the Kent home of Charles Darwin shows the great scientist to have been as devoted to his family as to his work on the origin of species.

English Heritage, which manages Down House, has invested £1 million in presenting his work and life – including many rare objects on display for the first time – to a modern audience.

Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, English Heritage's chairman, said: "The exhibition brings the man and his family, his painstaking research and his ground-breaking theories to life. It places Down House firmly on the international map as one of the world's most important scientific heritage sites."

The exhibition opened on Friday to mark the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150 years since the publication of On the Origin of Species, which was written at his home in Downe village, near Orpington.

KOS Media was given a preview of the exhibition in the home where so many important discoveries were made and which last month was nominated a world heritage site. One room, perhaps, holds the most significant exhibits that epitomise Darwin the scientist and family man.

It contains a first edition of On the Origin of Species, which is displayed on a chrome model of the 'tree of life' used by Darwin to describe evolution through the relationship between all life on Earth. There are notebooks and specimens from his epic voyage aboard HMS Beagle.

Darwin was a great man of letters, writing to experts and fellow naturalists around the world about his ideas and never afraid to ask their opinions.

Personal items including his wife Emma's gold wedding ring and, most poignantly, a writing box that belonged to his daughter Annie before she died of scarlet fever, aged 10, with an embroidered pin cushion and tiny thimble, are also on display.

Annie Kemaran-Smith, curator of the exhibition, said: "Annie's box was one of the things I enjoyed installing most because it is such a personal item. You can immediately see how devastated they were by her death."

Another room is devoted to a recreation of Darwin's cabin aboard HMS Beagle in which he travelled the world for five years, spending months in his cramped quarters.

The exhibition's creators have employed the 21st century technique of a light show giving the illusion of Darwin at work in the cabin studying a specimen and even enjoying a pinch of snuff, complete with sound-effects of gulls, exotic insects and feet from the deck above.

Ms Kemaran-Smith said: "He was in a lot of discomfort and suffered terribly from sea sickness. He would lay stretched out on the map table for comfort sometimes. Although they had very different political views, he got

MY SPACE: Darwin's study at Down House. Inset, curator Annie Kemaran-Smith with an early copy of On the Origin of Species

DOWN HOUSE: The family home gave Charles Darwin room to think and experiment

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Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **73**.

from around the world seeking insight into life and work of the Victorian scientist

Kent's genius

on well with the captain Robert FitzRoy, who had a bigger cabin and would let Darwin lie on the sofa when he was seasick.

"The packing crates would have been full of specimens such as bird skulls and fossils, which he would send back to England."

Darwin had learned taxidermy and was able to kill and stuff animals, she said.

The former nursery features a family tree of the Darwin/Wedgwood dynasty and pictures of his 10 children, seven of whom survived to adulthood.

Darwin married his first cousin and it was at Down House when his children became sick, that he became concerned and started investigating inbreeding using his garden laboratory to investigate the effects on plants. His work in the garden went on to be the basis of many of his theories about evolution.

He was devastated by the death of Annie, Ms Kemaran-Smith said.

"After her death he stopped going to church. He would walk Emma and the children to the door, then go off on a walk."

QUIET STROLL: The Sandwalk in the grounds of Down House

Cabinets at Down House are full of the children's toys, including a menagerie of model animals, and also a 'stair slide' he commissioned from a carpenter in the village. "Charles Darwin was not typical, the children were very much indulged," Ms Kemaran-Smith said. "They were allowed to run all over the house and interrupt him whenever they wanted to, even in his study."

Darwin suffered from a chronic upset stomach and would travel to Malvern for the spa and water treatment, which included cold showers. He continued this at home in Kent and would get Parslow, his butler for 37 years, to douse him in the kitchen garden.

All aspects of Darwin's life are explored in the exhibition, including his social conscience and values that were influenced by his grandfathers, Erasmus Darwin and Josiah Wedgwood, who campaigned for the abolition of slavery.

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NEW CHAPTER: Darwin's notebooks form part of the display

BALL GAME: The billiard room at Down House

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Pier charge row

TORY plans to increase fishing charges on Deal pier by 50 per cent have been attacked by Dover District Council's Labour group.

Currently the charge is £1, but from April 1 this could rise to £1.50.

Cllr Mark Furnival raised the matter at the last full council meeting.

He said: "Fishing is a favourite pastime for many in the district and handline fishing is enjoyed by youngsters. It's a healthy activity which should be encouraged. Money is short for many peopel and this is the worst time to be increasing charges by this amount.

"We hope those using Deal pier to enjoy fishing will join us in putting pressure on the council before it's too late."

Cllr Nigel Collor, cabinet member for access and property management, said he would look into the issue and see if they could come to an agreement nearer £1.25.

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Hidden history comes to light

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

PERSONAL items from days gone by could be hidden within the walls and beneath the floorboards of some of Kent's oldest buildings.

According to Sittingbourne-based historian Alan Abbey, hiding household artefacts was common among 17th century homeowners. Mr Abbey, who is a postgraduate student at the University of Kent at Canterbury, is studying the types of items hidden and the reasons behind the strange tradition.

ALAN ABBEY

He said: "The items are usually highly eclectic in scope and can range from shoes and hats to toasting forks and tool belts.

"Many date from the 17th century but there are examples through to the Victorian period, too. Many have simply considered the practice of hiding items as a good luck charm, but evidence suggests there is a great deal more going on. Discoveries to date have revealed that some finds may have been memorials and others sympathetic magic to encourage fertility.

"Some seem to mark a major change in the owner's life, such as a career change or the end of an apprenticeship."

Among the finds studied by Mr Abbey is a pair of stays discovered beneath the floorboards of the Plough Inn, Sittingbourne.

The stays, a form of underwear, were thought to have been made in about 1620 and are the second oldest pair in the country.

Mr Abbey has also studied items such as an 18th century hat from Sandwich, a 17th century shoe from Sittingbourne and a Victorian coffee pot from the nearby village of Bredgar. The information collected will be used to create a database of concealed artefacts in Kent.

KENTISH FINDS: An 18th century hat found in Sandwich; 17th century shoe found in Sittingbourne; a Victorian coffee pot from Bredgar; and (below) the stays found under the floorboards of a Sittingbourne pub and believed to date from 1620

Mr Abbey said: "My theory as to why things were hidden is based upon the various period alterations a building experiences. As an earlier building was modernised, especially around the fireplaces and staircases, voids were created that caused spiritual and psychological concerns for people. I think these voids were no longer considered part of the home and devoid of life.

"The placing of a personal artefact in such an area provided an element of life – albeit in miniature – and kept this area alive."

Mr Abbey is appealing for anyone who has found such an item or who knows of finds elsewhere to contact him and help with his study, which he has called ARFVA – Artefacts Revealing Folkloric practices within Vernacular Architecture. Email him at a.abbey@virgin.net.

A rare offering from the gods

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A 4,000-year-old vessel once used to make offerings to the gods of Ancient Greece has been found at a Kent museum.

The early Cycladic III kernos, a vessel made up of six cups around a globular basin on a fluted base, is extremely rare and according to experts is thought to be one of only 20 left in the world.

Excited staff at Maidstone museum announced on Tuesday it was now in the exalted company of other kernos keepers around the world, such as the British Museum, the Louvre in Paris and the New York Metropolitan Gallery of Art.

RARE FIND: Maidstone museum's Giles Guthrie with the Ancient Greek kernos

Giles Guthrie, keeper of human history, said: "We have had it in the museum for some time but only recently realised how unusual it was. A Greek expert from the British Museum came down from London and had a look at our collection and they flagged it up as being very rare."

The kernos was used to make offerings to the gods and each cup would have been filled with a different 'gift', such as milk, honey and oats.

Mr Guthrie said the filled vessel would have been held on the head of the devotee until sanctified by the priest.

Kernos, like the one discovered at Maidstone, are usually found at Phylakopi on the island of Melos, which was once home to the world famous Venus de Milo sculpture.

Mr Guthrie said: "When the kernos is exhibited it will contribute to our understanding of prehistoric, archaic and classical Greek pottery.

"It will be the oldest piece of Greek pottery on display in the collection, outstripping the archaic ware by over a thousand years.

"This item completes the story of the evolution of Greek painted pottery within the gallery as it portrays the beginning of the process which is then followed through until the demise of the Ancient Greek civilisation.

"When the New York Met acquired its kernos in 2004, experts described the piece as strengthening the museum's holdings immeasurably.

"Let's hope this piece will do the same for Maidstone museum."

The museum said it would have Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses value the piece and planned to exhibit the discovery.

Archaeology and ancient history student Kayleigh McMahon was working alongside Mr Guthrie at the museum when the importance of the kernos was discovered.

Bacteria alert shuts schools

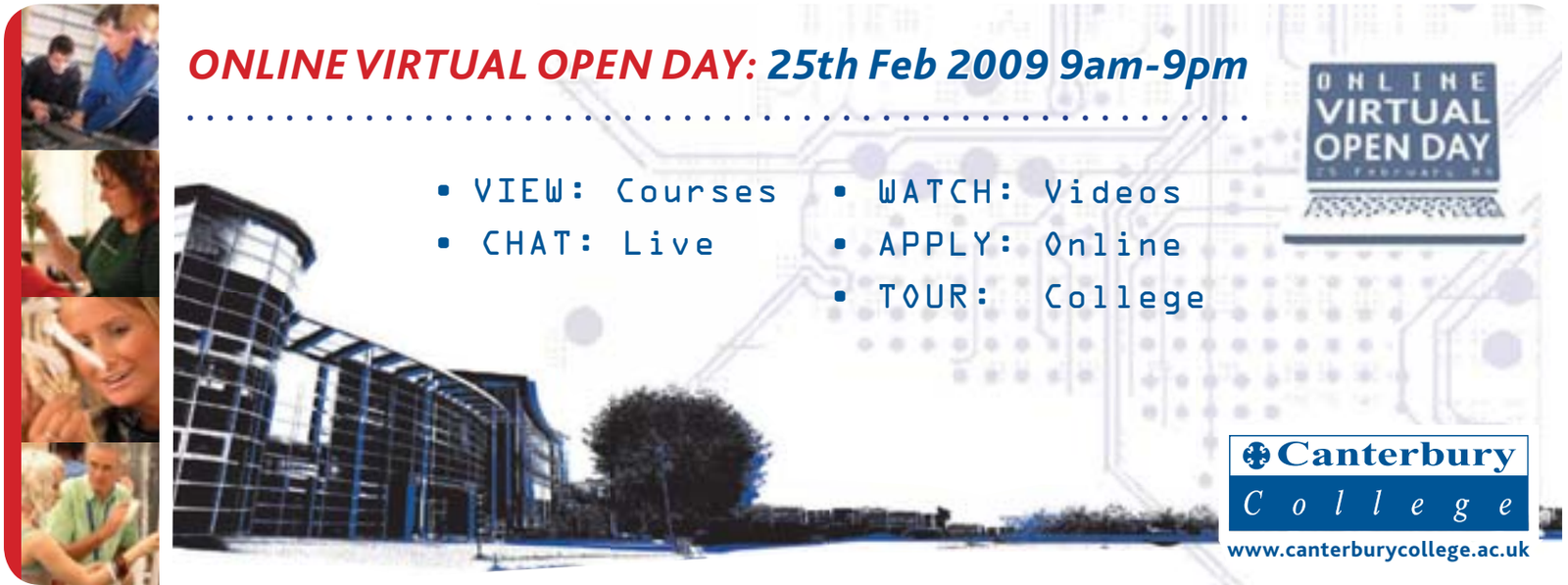
TWO schools were closed after a bacteria linked to legionnaires' disease was discovered in the water supply.

The legionella bacteria was found during a routine water check at Horsted Infant and Junior schools, Chatham, on Thursday, February 5.

The bacteria posed no risk to pupils or staff but caused havoc with the schools' plumbing, with the hot water supply and toilet flushing systems both turned off.

As a result, both headteachers made the decision to send pupils home for the day.

A Medway Council official said: "As legionella can only be contracted through aerated water such as showers, pupils and staff were not exposed to any risk. As a precaution, the system was flushed through."



KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Measles jab vital for many reasons

TWO schools in Kent have now been hit by outbreaks of measles this year.

Figures released from the Health Protection Agency show a steep rise in the number of cases of measles over the last decade from 56 in 1998 to 1,348 last year.

In the 1990s, the disease had almost been eradicated, but then came Dr Andrew Wakefield's research published in the Lancet claiming to establish a link between the combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism.

At the time, understandably, parents panicked. The tabloids in particular were full of scare-stories and emotive features. But experts are now united and an American court this week ruled there was no proven link between the MMR vaccine and autism.

So, please, follow the advice of the HPA and get your child vaccinated. The anti-vaccine campaign has already had a serious consequence on public health and measles has become more common in the UK only 14 years after it was practically wiped out.

Last year, two teenagers died from measles. It is a serious disease that can prove fatal and cause side effects including deafness, pneumonia and encephalitis, or swelling of the brain.

To achieve 100 per cent protection for the whole population the uptake of immunisation against measles needs to be 95 per cent. 'Herd immunity' from measles has already been lost and at the moment the uptake rate of the MMR jab is only 77 per cent. By getting your child vaccinated you are not just protecting them from the disease, but others too.

OPINION: Other people's problems

A volatile mix of looked-after children and vulnerable adults is stifling Thanet's progress, argues Tory Cllr Chris Wells

UNSURPRISINGLY, when the News of the World published a story about looked-after children in Kent, they got just about everything wrong.

When Charlie Elphicke highlighted the difficulty for some residents in Deal, I doubt he realised how the problem was creeping round from Thanet, where it has been an issue for much longer.

More surprisingly, Kent children's social services also seem to have done little right since the Thanet inquiry of 2005. Kent still has as many looked-after children from other – mainly London – boroughs as its own. There are up to seven times more of them in Cliftonville than in any other part of Kent. In 2005, this situation was declared unacceptable by the then recently promoted director of social services, Peter Gilroy, now KCC's chief executive. Incoming director of children's social services, Bill Anderson, knew the problem well as he had been area director for this part of the county, fully involved in writing the original inquiry. With this enthusiasm and knowledge, people expected real change in the ensuing years. They have been disappointed.

While it would appear we have the support of the relevant Government minister, this change alone is far from the answer. The incoming law, aiming to ensure looked-after children stay within 20 miles of their own communities, has exceptions for specialist care – where young people need extra skills for their emotional trauma.

In 2005, there were small children's homes across the area. Their numbers have been reduced. However, the number of out-of-area looked-after children remains stubbornly constant, most having moved from children's homes to foster homes.

We know many private foster carers are being trained to specialist status. Because it is truly necessary, or to anticipate the next change?

This whole area of work is run by the Kent Safeguarding Children's Board, an officer-only body. Its failure leaves Cliftonville with as big a problem as ever with out-of-area looked-after children. Messrs Gilroy and Anderson are paid about £350,000 between them for their problem-solving skills. I suspect we could have solved the problem better by giving 350 looked-after children or their families £1,000 each to go home. We would at least have seen more change.

And it does not stop with children. The 2005 inquiry talked of a community at the tipping point because of the explosive mix of vulnerable adults and children. There are even fewer controls and reporting procedures for any incoming adult population, and thus the mix is as volatile as ever.

Thanet North MP Roger Gale has campaigned tirelessly to demonstrate the dangers of this mix, and the import of vulnerable adults to live alongside so many vulnerable children. In Thanet South, Laura Sandys has tackled the problem from the other end, appearing on radio stations to illustrate the issues for Londoners, and lobbying assembly members about the impact on our quality of life.

This is very sad. Through the hard work of groups such as the Stronger Safer Communities Fund, or the Cliftonville Residents' Association, there has been enormous progress in rediscovering pride in Cliftonville.

Visible improvements to Dane Park and the Oval Bandstand clearly show community cohesion and success.

Street residents' associations are springing up and encouraging action on planning and enforcement, so properly integrated communities can flourish.

Yet there is still the equivalent of two full-time police officers chasing up on children running away from placements; there are still more looked-after Kent children whose mothers come from outside the area than would be found in other local authority areas; there are still more fires in homes of multiple occupation than there should be; and still some streets where population turnover is so high there is little pride in their surroundings.

So, on behalf of Margate and Cliftonville, I demand fewer words and more action from Messrs Gilroy and Anderson.

They face a real risk this overwhelming failure will become the most visible epitaph of their time at County Hall.

• ***Cllr Chris Wells is KCC member for Margate and Cliftonville.***

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Kent on Sunday, 14.2.09

Common sense takes flight

Thank you for your report last week regarding the debate about possible extension of night flying hours at Manston airport.

However, I was surprised and disappointed to read elsewhere in the paper – in the Opinion column – the extraordinary views of Clive Aslet.

He appeared to be inviting the public to join him in a campaign of civil disobedience which would involve trespassing upon a secure area of the airfield.

At the beginning of his piece he had been offering prayers for the aircrew and residents, while later apparently encouraging behaviour which could endanger flight safety.

I hope the authorities take this matter seriously.

Peter Medwell, Broadstairs

A thunderous noise

An open letter to Matt Clarke, Kent International Airport's chief executive:

I write in response to recent KOS Media articles regarding the proposed renegotiation of the agreed Section 106 to allow an increase in night flights – and general flight activity – at Manston.

This comes on the heels of news that a major European long-haul airline has expressed an interest in operating from Manston. I live in Whitstable and have been watching developments for years. While I welcome an improvement in the Thanet economy, it must come with restrictions that protect residents in the isle and further afield.

There are regular cargo flights over Whitstable on descent to Manston and the 747s fly extremely low. I know the guideline is supposed to be 1,000ft, but I'm sure they are lower. The noise is thunderous.

Any renegotiations should impose strict limits on night flights and, if any increase is agreed, a compromise to residents should include the introduction of strict descent paths – as is the case at Birmingham and Manchester airports. They are possible, but not the easy option.

At present, pilots have free rein from the Detling beacon to Manston.

I look forward to your comments.

Felicia Foster, Whitstable

Thanet needs the jobs

I was astonished to read the views of Clive Aslet on the development of Manston airport.

He is burying his head in the sand. I have seen this sort of Nimbyism from the PC brigade in the past, when they tried to stop the development of Ramsgate harbour.

Most of those against development have come here to retire or are working away and use Thanet as a base. As I see it, any development that creates jobs is welcome. Mr Aslet is looking through rose-tinted glasses.

There could be a future for the younger generation of Thanet, as Ramsgate harbour could be expanding as well as Manston airport. At the moment, all I see are retired DFLs (down from London).

Keith Brooks, Thanet

It's a minority opinion

Clive Aslet's Opinion piece must be read exactly as that – it is his opinion and his only.

A small piece of Ramsgate stands very much alone on this issue, and it is unfair to claim Thanet thinks as Ramsgate does.

Those of us in Thanet who are not living under the existing flight paths do not support his views.

He mentions there has been an airfield at Manston for years, so everyone moved into their homes with that full knowledge. Indeed, when I moved here in 1972 I was astonished that the Nethercourt estate was being developed right under the flight path of the US fighter planes, which were far noisier and dirtier than modern jets. The council, as always, has a lot to answer for. Back in 1972 while the Nethercourt estate was being built at the end of the runway, a large industrial estate was being built on the old Ramsgate airfield on Pysons Road. I never understood why the industrial estate was not built by the runway and the housing estate at Pysons Road.

Mr Aslet also forgets to mention this latest application is a change from 7am to 11pm flying times to 6am to 11.30pm, an extra half hour in the evening and one hour in the morning. Is this really going to be such a momentous change that it is worth sacrificing potential employers' interest?

He talks of corporate greed, but I see a glimmer of hope for our children's future. I am a school governor and sit on the board of a local employment training organisation, helping the long-term unemployed back into work, and I can tell you Mr Aslet is out of touch with people's real needs. Indeed, being editor-at-large of Country Life hardly qualifies anyone to claim to represent the people of Thanet.

John Andrews, Broadstairs

International Nimby

Is Kent County Council leader Paul Carter a Nimby? One day he is calling for the expansion of Kent International Airport and the next is railing against the proposed development of Kent International Gateway, the road/rail hub which will bring in more jobs and take traffic off Kent roads, unlike the airport which will only create congestion.

Nicholas Hillier, Ramsgate

Clear out this rats' nest

Clearly something is wrong in Kent if the editor-at-large of Country Life details the failures of coastal Kent and Infratil/Manston.

The failure of Thanet council is well-known: rated in the bottom 10 per cent of UK councils by the Government and with some of the worst deprivation in Western Europe.

Perhaps more surprising is the failure of KCC and the area's MPs to reform governance in the county.

With a £2 billion income and 60 per cent from council tax, surely KCC should be taking a more active lead in sacking failed civil servants and councillors and providing clear and sensible strategies.

Geoff Wild, the legal head at KCC, seems to believe that jumbo jets and pollution of Pegwell Bay are acceptable breaches of the 106 operating guidelines for Manston – as well as polluted drinking water, and no regeneration policies, except burning down Margate.

If he's too busy helping Swindon council, then Kent's citizens should know. Meanwhile,

Letters continued on page 36

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

BEECH
Harvey Charles born on 8th January 2009 weighing 8lb, son to Stephen and Kerry, brother to Holly.

CLARKSON
Lee and Kayleigh of Herne Bay are the proud parents of a beautiful baby daughter, Cleo Marie Clarkson, born on 4th February 2009 at 16.07 weighing 6lb 12 oz.

CONWAY
Paul-James Conway born on 4th February 2009 weighing 7lbs 9oz. Son to James Whitehead and Sandra Conway of Ashford. A brother to Chanel and Shakira.

CROSSWELL
Ben and Jennie are delighted to announce the birth of their son Joshua Thomas. Born on 31st January 2009.

CURRAN
Isla Rose born 11th January. Daughter to Steve and Rose, Grandaughter to Nigel and Jean Burt.

DAVEY
Scott and Lisa of Margate, formerly of Canterbury, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Kaiden Scott Davey, who was born on 3rd February 2009 at 7.45 am weighing 7lb 4oz.

DAVIES
Cody Hudson born on 15th January 2009, weighing 7lb 10oz. Son to Gareth and Claire Davies of Maidstone.

DUNMALL
Ava-Lily born on 5th February 2009 weighing 8lb to proud parents Neil and Louise.

EVA
Eliot born on 25th January 2009 weighing 8lb 5oz to proud parents Matt and Lois.

HOLDER
Geoff and Christine are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son, Isaac Oliver Holder. Isaac was born at home in Faversham on 19th January 2009 at 2.30am weighing 6lb 1oz.

JONES
Annaley and Simon of Tunbridge Wells are pleased to announce the birth of their twins Theodore Isaac and Evangeline Grace on 23rd January 2009.

KILLENGRAY
Isla born on the 8th January 2009, weighing 8lb 7oz. Daughter to Louise and Jonathan Killengray. Sister to Euan, Rhys and Callum of Kings Hill.

KINGSNORTH
Alfie James born at home in Biddenden on 7th January 2009, weighing 8lbs 15oz. A son to Anthony and Sarah Kingsnorth, and a brother for Millie, Samuel and Joshua.

LAWRENCE
Danielle Lawrence and Peter Cunnington of Tunbridge Wells celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Isabelle Grace on 26th January 2009 weighing 8lb 7oz.

MILLER
Jane and Andrew would like to announce the birth of Benjamin Elliott on 29th January 2009. A little brother for Bethany.

RIVERS
Neil Rivers and Fay McGahan celebrate the birth of their daughter Eryn Jessica Rivers on 27th January 2009, weighing 8lb 1oz.

SMITH
Jasmine Louise born to proud parents Julie and Stephen on 29th January 2009 weighing 6lb 10oz.

SPICE
Welcome to the world Ocean-Rose! A beautiful daughter for Jaysie, grand-daughter for Claire and great grand-daughter for Maggie, neice for a proud aunty Elle-Mae.

STEVENS
Mark and Lisa Stevens of Herne Bay are proud to announce the birth of their new daughter and sister to Evie, Darcy Rose, born on 22/1/2009.

WALL
Steve and Lyndsey celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter, Annabelle Lily Rosa. Born 24th January 2009, sister to big brothers Harry and Archie.

WITTS
Sonia and Justin of Broadstairs celebrate the birth of their daughter Ellie Sarah Jane on 5th February 2009. Sister to Ryan and Joshua.

DEATHS

BRAY
Mrs Elsie Bray died peacefully on 30th January 2009. Flowers to Doves Funeral Directors Maidstone or donations to the British Heart Foundation.

BRICE
In memory of a loving Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Gwen died peacefully at Barham House Nursing Home on 31st January 2009. Cremation at Barham on 20th February at 12 noon.

BROOKER
Jean Lilian Brooker on 2nd February 2009 aged 69.Dearly loved wife of John, mother to David and Paul and grandmother to Ellie. Funeral service at Vinters Park crematorium at 11am on 16th February 2009.

CHAPMAN
Peter Chapman formerly of Uxbridge Middlesex passed away on the 29th January 2009. Looking for Guy Jarvis please contact Sterrys Funeral Directors.

CRAWFORD
Derek Crawford.Suddenly at home on the 28th Jan 2009 in Whitstable. Cremation at Barham 16th Feb 2009 2pm. Donations to Diabetes UK or British Heart Foundation c/o Lyons in Whitstable.

FULCHER
Rose Lena Fulcher passed away on 4th February 2009. Funeral service to be held at 11.45am on 19th February 2009 at Vinters Park Crematorium.

NICOL
Derek Albert Nicol (Jim) beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather passed away peacefully on 4th February 2009. Sadly missed by all.Funeral service at vinters Park at 3.30pm on 19th February 2009. Family flowers and donations to British Heart Foundation c/o John Weir Funeral Directors, Rainham, Kent.

PATEL
Navinbhai Patel of Margate, passed peacefully away on 5th February 2009 at the Pilgrims Hospice in Thanet. A loved one is not gone, until they are forgotten! And to live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

SEAGER
Kathleen Nora Seager of Faversham passed away peacefully on 7th February 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford aged 83 years. A loving mum to her five children and a much loved Nan and Great Nan. The funeral service is to be held at St Marys Parish Church, Faversham on Tuesday 17th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only but if desired any donations to Save The Children Fund.

TAYLOR
Nell Taylor of Canterbury, formerly of Maidstone, passed away peacefully on 1st February 2009. Much loved mother of Colin, Barry and Paul and a loving grandmother and great grandmother who will be very sadly missed. The funeral will be held at Vinters Park, Maidstone on Tuesday 17th February at 1.15pm.

WAKEFIED
Eileen Wakefield beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother who will be sorely missed and live in our hearts forever, who passed away on 24 January 2009.

Continued from page 35

ludicrous job promises from Infratil are accepted by the council and MPs, to allow night flights by stealth. It is as if a cargo airport in Kent, opposite Ostend cargo airport in Belgium, is effective policy or credible governance.

Kent needs to see drastic reductions in council tax and business rates as the price for failure and to more value-led policies. The money has gone to Maidstone too often.

Will Cllr Carter and Mr King not spend more time at Kent's coast – swimming in the sea, drinking the water and beer, enjoying the seafood and breathing in the fresh air – before helping clear out the rats' nest of incompetence at Britain's worst council?

Tim Garbutt, Ramsgate

But war was brewing

I was pleased to read Cllr Paul Carter is speaking out against the half-baked plans of Boris Johnson for an airport in the Thames Estuary (KOS Media, February 1).

It was strange that in the 1930s, KCC seemed to take little interest in the proposals of the old Southern Railway to build a new London airport at Lullingstone to replace Croydon, which was becoming cramped.

The site had been found in 1935 by Sir Alan Cobham who subsequently persuaded everybody it would be ideal.

Southern Railway, which in the 1930s had its own airline, pulled out in 1938 when it realised that it would lose money on the development.

The Air Ministry took the project over and would have purchased the land but for the owner, the Kemp Town Brewery, wanting more money than the Government was prepared to pay. It would have gone to

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February 2009

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FROM NURSERY TO UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND

WAITING FOR PARENTS' VERDICTS ON CHANGES TO THE 11-PLUS
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Chris Britcher spends a day at school and learns more than he bargained for

ALSO INSIDE…

9 Kent's new academies
13 Young stars get funding
16 Schools' techno task
17 Colleges and the move
21 Learn closer to home
23 New skills, new career

HAS caring replaced learning in today's classrooms? Two Canterbury academics debate the pros and cons of the modern focus on feelings in education. **DENNIS HAYES**, co-author of The Dangerous Rise of Therapeutic Education and lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, is a widely quoted opponent of the Government's Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme, which he calls manipulative and dangerous. **PHILLIP KARNAVAS**, headteacher of the Canterbury High School, recently graded 'outstanding' by Ofsted, is a firm supporter of the SEAL scheme, believing it increases pupils' ability to learn…

Getting the best results

DENNIS HAYES

THERAPEUTIC education is about manipulating children's emotional lives and trying to control their feelings rather than letting them relate freely to other children, their parent and adults, with love, anger, hatred – the emotions they feel when growing up.

If adults control them, children will never grow up.

Teachers committed to teaching their subjects used to be authoritarian and got children to learn.

Now they increasingly want to help them become more confident and in touch with their emotional lives, so that they can learn, but this is indirectly authoritarian and manipulative.

Concerns with raising pupils' self-esteem and emotional literacy or building their resilience and emotional well-being are based on something new, what you can call a diminished concept of our children.

This is something different and dangerous and although it seems to be compassionate it is really very manipulative.

As a history teacher remarked:

"Something has changed when pupils want to know more about themselves than the world."

PHILLIP KARNAVAS

BUILDING self-esteem and nurturing emotional well-being neither replace the curriculum nor prevent learning; rather they enable better access to both.

While I agree that caring must not substitute for learning, caring about children is a vital precondition for learning.

It does not imply 'a diminished concept' of, nor necessarily produce 'dependency' in children; rather they help overcome complex barriers to learning, empowering and motivating children to enjoy and achieve.

None of these things are about controlling children; rather they enable children to better control their learning.

Moreover, a better understanding of 'self' is not the promotion of solipsism; rather it better equips learners for the acquisition of knowledge and understanding.

My school successfully operates many of those things Mr Hayes 'rubbishes' and I make no apology for it.

Rather than pay £18.99 for his book, I would donate it to Barnados and live with the guilt caused by

knowing Mr Hayes feels I have contributed to the 'downsizing of children's potential'.

County's education services praised by Ofsted

KENT County Council said it is delighted with a favourable Ofsted report on its children, families and education provisions. The watchdog said the service for children and young people is 'outstanding', 'excellent' and 'strong'.

In the other six categories it was rated 'good'.

The report praised KCC in several areas, including the percentage of young people gaining five or more GCSE grades A* to C; the numbers of children and young people in education, employment or training; the 14-19 strategy; its outstanding leadership and direction, plus the strong and consistent record of improvement and partnership working and the focus on value for money embedded across all services.

Some areas for improvement were identified, including the need to increase the number of looked-after children who receive annual health and dental checks, and raising the proportion of children who feel part of decision-making in schools.

KCC cabinet member for children, families and educational achievement Cllr Leyland Ridings said: "Our sustained and consistent improvement has been identified by Ofsted and it underlines our commitment to provide the best children's services we can. Indeed, we have already made a significant improvement in the number of looked-after children getting their health checks.

"However, we are not complacent and we are aware of where we can and need to improve and it gives me great confidence that our assessment clearly states we are an authority with the capacity to adapt, grow and improve.

"It is a tribute to the hard work of our staff that we have again done well in our annual report."

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Little minds need your help

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

PRE-SCHOOL children are walking into their first classroom completely unequipped with the proper skills they need for a good start to schooling, says a study.

A survey found that what is even worse is that most parents seem completely unaware of what their children should already know for that first day.

The research reveals a mere 16 per cent of parents can confidently claim to know what skills and knowledge their young children should have acquired by their first day at school.

And some 20 per cent admit to having no idea what skills their young children should have by this age, with eight per cent going as far to say they haven't personally prepared their children with adequate skills for school.

A cable TV show called Hi-5 promotes learning through play for children aged between two and five years.

Helping the show is child expert and development psychologist at Brunel University, Dr Janine Spencer.

She created the 'Hi-5 Curricu-mum' – an online guide containing a checklist of 22 key skills children should have started to develop by the time they start school.

Interactive

The guide also contains practical advice for parents on how to nurture these skills in a fun and exciting way, and why children need these skills based on the official child development guidelines.

Cecilia Persson, programme director for Cartoonito which broadcasts Hi-5, said: "It is exactly what parents of pre-school children have been looking for; a simple and straight-to-the-point checklist ensuring that their pre-school children are already developing and learning the skills they need for school in a fun way.

"Like the 'Hi-5 Curricu-mum', Hi-5 the show also ensures these lessons are reflected in the show in a fun, energetic and interactive manner."

And Dr Spencer added: "As a parent, ensuring that your children are adequately prepared for school is one of the most important things that you do, but it can be very challenging and daunting when you don't feel that you have the guidance and information you need.

"A lot of the available material on pre-school development is focused on teaching child carers the skills, but can be difficult for parents with young children to access and

THE 'HI-5 CURRICU-MUM' CHECKLIST

The 22 skills your child should have developed by the time they start school

- Write their own name
- Know the letters of the alphabet
- Sing and recite songs
- Take turns and share things with other people without a fuss
- Complete simple activities on their own without help from you
- Be sensitive to other peoples' feelings and know the difference between right and wrong
- Dress and feed themselves (even if they get it wrong)
- Be confident enough to join in on group activities with other children
- Make up stories (even if they make no sense)
- Join in on general conversation at home with friends and family
- Tell the difference between the past and the future
- Be able to focus their attention on one thing for a prolonged period of time without getting restless
- Count basic numbers and answer number-based questions like 'how many carrots are on your plate?'
- Complete simple puzzles such as jigsaws on their own
- Ask lots and lots of questions ('Why? Why? Why?' is a great way to encourage curiosity)
- Understand the difference between different groups of things – eg, cats and dogs
- Experiment with basic technology, such as typing their name on a computer or playing on one by using the mouse
- Have fun playing outside and being active
- Tell the difference between healthy and unhealthy foods
- Play 'make believe' and use their imagination
- Make things and get messy with paints and crafts
- Make music with toy instruments and experiment with making sounds

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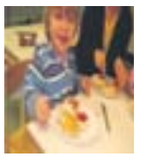

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United Church Schools Trust

Cash boost for school kitchens will help in fight against obesity

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

ELEVEN schools in Kent are getting a total of just over £3.3 million to boost their cookery facilities.

Two more in Bexley will get £645,000 and five in Bromley are set to receive a total of £1.5m.

In all, more than £56m nationally has been made available.

The money was announced by Secretary of State for Children Ed Balls as the next steps in getting the nation's children cooking – with measures to get them preparing meals at home and pave the way for compulsory practical classes in secondary schools from 2011.

But he said parents need to take a lead too, by getting their children to cook at home as well – and not just sticking a ready meal in the oven.

He said youngsters need to know how to prepare meals from scratch.

And the minister has enrolled supermarkets Aldi and Asda to help promote the Government's Real Meals cookbook.

Equipping children with cooking skills for life was central to combating obesity, he said.

Interactive

Kevin Moody, headteacher at Oakwood Grammar in Maidstone, welcomed the money.

He said: "We are very pleased with the opportunity to develop facilities for food technology. This is an area students and parents wanted us to explore and the funding will help enhance our curriculum.

"As a healthy school we welcome the chance to offer cooking skills to our students to help them lead healthy lifestyles now and in the future."

Experts say that without any intervention, 90 per cent of today's children could be overweight or obese and at risk from serious diseases by 2050.

Mr Balls also set out the next steps to building top class new facilities and to training a new generation of skilled and motivated staff to run practical cooking classes to redress the exodus of home economics teachers when many schools stopped classes in the 1970s and 1980s.

Jane Wheatley, headteacher of Dartford Grammar School for Girls, added: "We will be creating a practical kitchen and a healthy eating room to ensure we can teach food education. It is an exciting development opportunity for the school."

Mr Balls said: "Teaching children how to prepare basic recipes from scratch is fun to do at school and at home. It helps young people get the skills to go on to cook healthily for life.

"Many adults don't cook properly or pass on cooking skills to young people because they feel they don't have time; have never learnt how; or feel that proper cooking is too expensive.

"Celebrity chef cookbooks and TV shows have never been more popular, but far too many people see cooking as entertainment not something they actually do day in, day out.

"Obesity is the biggest long-term health issue facing this country.

"It is hard to believe, but the experts say that nine out of 10 of children today could be obese or overweight by 2050.

"Cooking in schools is an important part of the wider the Change4Life movement to get families eating well, moving more and living longer – but it is just the start.

"These measures are vital in gearing up secondary schools to offer practical cooking lessons from 2012 – putting expert and well-trained staff and good facilities in place across the board."

He said it was "extraordinary" there were still so many secondary schools with no facilities to teach cooking.

Mr Balls added: "But I've always been clear that the onus to pass on cooking skills should not just fall on teachers.

"This is not about telling families what to do and what to eat. The fact is that if parents never prepare or eat meals with their children then we risk children growing up uninterested in cooking or living healthily.

"That's why we now need to take our Real Meals campaign further. We need supermarkets and the food industry on board to help learning how to cook properly a normal part of growing up."

> **Experts say that nine out of 10 children today could be obese or overweight by 2050**
>
> Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children

Cooks given the recipe to improve skills

WE are told kids in Kent and the rest of the UK are facing a ticking obesity timebomb that is threatening to kill thousands in decades to come.

Never before has the diet of children been so important.

Some 90 per cent of parents said it is important their child has a nutritious and balanced meal at lunchtime, according to research for the School Food Trust.

So why does it all appear to be going wrong?

Kent County Council believes parents play a significant role in the eating habits of their children.

Research indicates that six out of 10 parents are involved in the decision-making about school meals, which if true will surely help keep youngsters healthy.

With the on-going economic downturn, it's reassuring to know children can get a tasty nutritious two-course meal plus a drink for less than £2 in primary schools, said KCC.

The council said: "Our aim is to focus on fresh and seasonal local produce; some pupils can actually see the produce being grown from the classroom window.

"Schools are working closely with the caterers on a number of new initiatives which are designed to be linked to the curriculum, speed service and make lunchtime an enjoyable experience. In Kent the meal numbers are steadily increasing."

The authority is finding its schools are already working to a high specification, and a spokesman said: "We welcome the introduction of the new standards for school food.

"The Government has sent a clear signal that enabling individuals to maintain a healthy weight is important and a good school lunch can play its part in improving the health of young people.

"School cooks have a central role in the success of the food served in our schools.

"We are delighted with the attendance on our Craft Skills Programme, so far we have had 200 kitchen staff complete the training.

"This motivates, builds confidence, personally and professionally and gives cooks the opportunity to share ideas with people from a similar background or role."

Since receiving the first Targeted School Meals Grant in 2005, there have been major developments to the facilities provided in school kitchens, it said.

At least 120 projects have been undertaken, ranging from replacement serving counters to total refurbishment of kitchens.

KCC is now in the process of bidding for more government funding linked to improving school kitchens and pupil dining areas over the next two years.

For more information visit www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-sixth-form/school-meals and www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/index.asp.

Istead Rise Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Caren Gardner
School Business Manager: Mrs Linda Howland
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Our School sits in an attractive setting within the community. The children and staff are able to enjoy the extensive grass areas, playing fields, ponds and play-grounds that surround the school buildings. The school also benefits from its own covered swimming pool, which is very popular with the children.

We are keen to share our excitement about learning and our school with you and would invite prospective parents to come and visit the school and meet both staff and pupils. We currently have spaces in most year groups. If you would like to telephone or e-mail we can arrange a visit at a time suitable to you.

The school will have a Breakfast and After School Club with effect from September 2009, if you would like to have more details please telephone the school.

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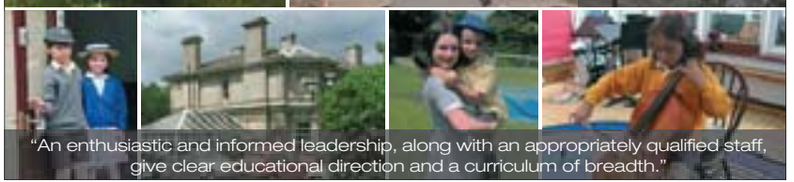

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Change to Kent Test under examination from parents

THE transition from primary to secondary schools in Kent should be much easier now thanks to a major rethink on the Kent Test, also known as the 11-plus.

But the jury (parents) will remain out until March to see if the new plan has worked.

The process had been a nightmare for parents in past years because they had to choose a new school for their children moving out of primary before the test was taken.

The effect of that was some headteachers, upset their school was chosen behind a grammar, refusing admission should the student fail the test. It made a complete nonsense of open choice.

So Kent County Council completely changed the system to make it fairer. This is now the first year it will have been used.

Now pupils take the Kent Test and choose a new school once they know if they have passed or not.

So far it has worked as it should, but the final test will be next month when offers of positions from schools are made.

KCC cabinet member for education operations, resources and skills Cllr Mark Dance looked at the decision to move the Kent Test back in the school year for us.

He said: "The decision to move 11-plus testing to the third week of September, a term ahead of where it has traditionally taken place, was initially regarded with some trepidation by those involved, not least the children taking the tests.

> **'The admissions team certainly feel that it was worth the effort which went in to managing the change'**
>
> Mark Dance, Kent County Council's cabinet member for education operations, resources and skills

"Once the papers had been marked and queries resolved, however, it was clear that Kent's children had taken the change in their stride.

"The proportion of the year group scoring above the grammar school threshold was directly comparable with previous years, with a slight increase on the usual 25 per cent finally assessed suitable for grammar school when late tests and headteacher referrals were taken into account.

"Instead of having to wait from January to March to find out how they had done, parents could be sent their children's assessments on October 21 – just a month after the thousands of test papers were completed – giving them time to think carefully about the preferences they would name when they completed their application forms for secondary schools in November.

"KCC's admissions team certainly feel that it was worth the effort which went into managing the change, because of the clear benefit to parents trying to make sensible decisions about where their child would go after primary school.

"The waiting isn't quite over, though; families will not learn which school place they have been allocated until the day after offers are posted out on March 2, 2009, the Government's national offer day."

Appeals process is no reason for undue panic

Education expert PETER READ has some advice for parents when it comes to selecting secondary education now the 11-plus dates have changed…

SOME 20,000 Kent and Medway parents will anxiously scan the post on March 3 for their children's secondary school allocations.

Kent parents who registered online will be emailed the previous evening.

The pattern of results will be different this year because those children who took the Kent 11-plus tests knew the results before applications went in.

There will be a surge in the number of children who get their first-choice school, as happened in Medway last year.

For those who are offered their first choice, the long wait is over. However, for others, anxious months lie ahead, as appeals and waiting lists work through.

You may have been offered another school on your list or for the unfortunate few, allocated a school you have not named as you did not consider it or felt it to be unsuitable.

First piece of advice is don't panic, you can't change anything in the next few weeks.

Don't send off an appeal the next day, it won't be considered any earlier than one that is thought out.

You can simply write a note to the address given stating you are appealing and a fuller letter will follow in due course.

You can appeal to as many schools named on your list as you like, and parents can apply afresh to any Kent school not named on their form after March 26.

If your child has not passed the 11-plus, and you named a grammar school on your application form you can appeal and will need to satisfy an appeal panel that your child is of grammar school ability.

There is a problem with this in Medway (not Kent) as, if you entered your child for a Medway review and were unsuccessful, you first need to show an appeal panel the Medway review process was unfair.

Only if you succeed in this will the panel consider if the child is of grammar school ability. Refer to my website for further information on this bewildering process, which is a government ruling and not of Medway's making.

If you have not been offered a place because the school is full then any appeal must persuade the panel that the reasons your child should be admitted outweigh any problems the school has in taking in additional children.

In any case put your name on the school waiting list.

For further advice try Choice Advisers for Kent (01622 694073) or Medway (01634 331110), the council admissions departments, or my own website www.kentadvice.co.uk with links to other sources of information.

In any case, best wishes to all of you for a successful outcome.

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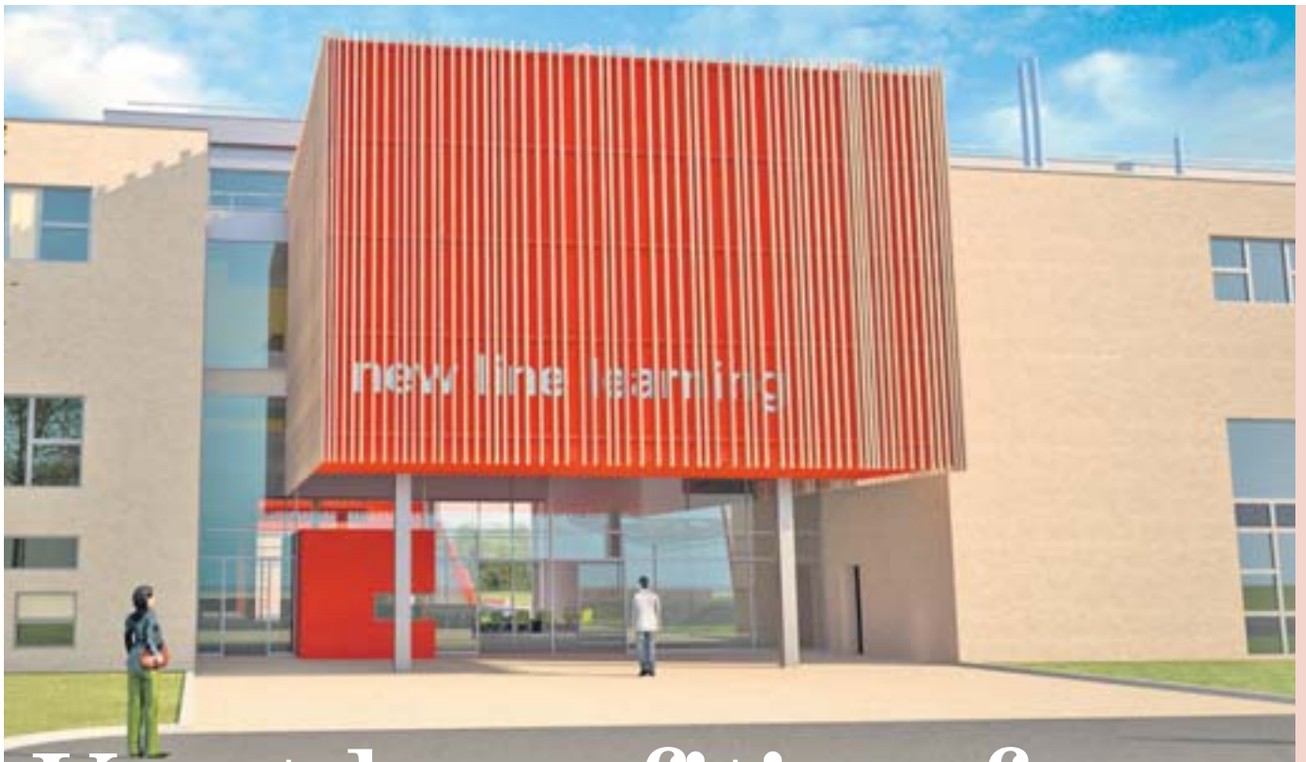

Kent benefiting from development of new sponsored academies

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

LAST year, the cash literally poured into Kent for its academies programme. In excess of £400 million was made available from the Government, just for the schools in the county.

Kent County Council called it a "remarkable year" for its academies programme – there were record-breaking contracts signed and national design awards won, as well as all the cash.

It is part of the national programme to replace schools in challenging circumstances with all-ability, state-funded academies that are established and managed by sponsors from a range of backgrounds.

KCC currently has 13 academies either open or in development.

Partners include Microsoft (UK) Ltd, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust, Holiday Extras, Hewlett Packard and leading independent schools including Dulwich College, Kings School Canterbury and Tonbridge School, as well as The Diocese of Canterbury, University of Kent and The Skinners Company.

Each academy partnership aims to transform the school experience, increase student motivation and performance and act as a catalyst for social and economic regeneration in disadvantaged Kent communities.

The authority had appointed a company called Carillion to deliver five academies – worth £125m collectively – across the county over the next four years.

These are Cornwallis Academy, Maidstone, Longfield Academy, Marsh Academy, Romney Marsh, New Line Learning Academy, Maidstone and Spires Academy, Canterbury.

The council said this represents the largest value academy deal brokered in the country.

In addition to designing and building the academies, the programme will also see more than 80 apprenticeships and training opportunities created for Kent students.

The first of these five, New Line Learning in Maidstone, beat off stiff competition to win the national best academy award at a prestigious London ceremony.

It is the second national design award the Kent Academies Programme has received after the Marlowe Academy in Folkestone won the Royal Institute of British Architects Schools Award in 2007.

Cabinet member for education operations, resources and skills Mark Dance said: "Both schools did well to be nominated and I am thrilled South Maidstone has beaten off stiff competition to win its category. It's been a real team effort."

The Kent Academies Programme has so far secured well over £400m of central government investment in school buildings and ICT facilities for schools in the county, with more expected to follow in 2009-10, said Councillor Dance.

NEW LOOK: High-tech designs for academies are transforming school buildings in parts of the county

Planning schools for the future has never been more important. We asked education expert PETER READ to tell us about the new Building Schools for the Future scheme. He is also the chairman of the board of governors at Ifield Special School, the project's first success in the county…

The Building Schools for the Future project, which is seeing all Kent's secondary schools replaced or substantially rebuilt over the next 10 years, has celebrated its first success.

Ifield Special School in Gravesend, catering for children with profound, severe and complex conditions as well as being a specialist school for children with severe communication difficulties including autism, was recently reopened by Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council.

The new building has already been recognised for its excellence, being a finalist in the national Civic Trust Awards for outstanding architecture, to be awarded next month.

As well as the replacement of the school buildings, Ifield has seen many other unique innovations in the past few years, contributing to its success and a growing pressure on places as the school responds to local needs.

The nationally recognised SMILE Centre, offering support for children with special education needs in all mainstream Gravesham schools, is now being rolled out across Kent and the training courses the centre offers for teachers and other education professionals from across Kent are increasingly popular.

The school runs a unique post-16 course for 36 students, based at North West Kent College of Technology, taught by Ifield staff, but integrated into college life.

The faculty is shortly to move into a purpose-built, multi-million pound suite in a brand new building at the college, offering the students every facility.

At the other end of the scale, Ifield has opened a joint nursery school with the neighbouring Kings Farm Primary School, enabling children in both parts of the venture the best learning environment that can be provided.

Ifield has been successful in bidding for a further unique initiative through its specialist school status, a 'house' where students can develop the skills of independent living through a variety of opportunities including overnight stays.

The latest scheme is part of the BSF project and sees the school managing an enormous ICT investment from this Easter, enabling it to provide the latest specialist equipment for the school's very special children.

Ofsted noted in last year's inspection report "the remarkable adaptability of the school during this period has been due to the excellent sense of direction senior staff have created and the outstanding commitment to the school by staff and governors…"

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CHRIS BRITCHER turns back the clock to spend a full day back at an infant school in Whitstable to get a taste of how things have changed since his schooldays and to see just what standards are like today…

School day trip an education in how our young are being taught

GULP. Thirty minutes into my return to infant school education and I'm learning things I cannot for the life of me remember being taught in all my time in the classroom.

There is something a tad disconcerting sitting among six and seven-year-old children as they discuss the cortex, limbic and reptilian parts of the human brain and what roles they fulfil. After picking my jaw up off the floor the top half of my face tumbles down to join it when one youngster puts his hand up and starts discussing neurons.

You could be forgiven for thinking this is some sort of special school I find myself in; one designed for the super intelligent. But no. This is infant school education 21st century-style and by heck is it impressive.

I am sat in a brightly lit, beautifully decorated and well equipped classroom at Westmeads Infant School in Whitstable.

There's a bank of PCs, a corner full of cushions in which to relax and read and the teacher is perched on a comfy armchair in perfect control of a very well drilled and well-mannered class.

I'll admit I was expecting a little more in the way of organised chaos.

Westmeads, however, is no stranger to praise; its most recent Ofsted report yelled its positives from the roof tops. And little wonder. It is a progressive, impressive school with strong leadership, teachers, and a real sense of community – both as a place of education and as part of the town itself.

The Ofsted inspectors gave it a flurry of 'outstanding' ratings; its staff are a mix of youth and experience.

It is also PSHE week – and hence the reason I find myself perched on a tiny plastic school seat next to my six-year-old son.

Difference

Personal, Social and Health Education is a key part of the curriculum. Rather than simply developing the brain it aims to boost the personality, too. And, as part of a week of special events, parents have been invited in to spend a day with their child and watch them at work and play. Who could resist?

Things are very different to my infant years back in the late-70s, where Panini football stickers and playing Star Wars in the playground was all that seemed important.

Today's lessons start with a morning workout. We're up on our feet and running through a series of stretches and movements to get our brains ticking over nicely.

It would be easy to be cynical about this. To suggest that this is some sort of right-on fad which does nothing, but make everyone look a bit silly. I half admit I thought that too initially. But, in truth, it's a very relaxing and effective way to get the class to tune into what is expected of them; to focus on their studies.

By the time we've discussed the brain and then examined number groups I'm pleased for a breather come lunchtime.

But before that we have assembly – and a violin recital from a little girl mature beyond her years. It reminds me my son ought to practice his instrument a little more.

Then it's lunchtime and the playground proves nothing has really changed; footballs hurtle around, girls skip, boys rush and dash.

> **'It was truly heartening to see these young children having their future shaped in such a positive way'**

Joy of joys, a friend of my son spots me and rushes over to show me his football trading cards. Ah. Some things never change.

Now if only I had some swaps the best part of 30 years of my life would be shaved off. Do they still do Liam Brady and Alan Sunderland cards I wonder? I'm not sure if anyone in this school will have ever even heard of Frank Stapleton or Pat Rice.

As for Panini, they probably think he's a player Manchester City are trying to sign from Italy.

The big difference is the amount of things to do. During my infant school era, we were allowed a tennis ball to play football and that was it.

Today, there are balls and hockey sticks with which to play. There's even, and yes you are reading this correctly, two miniature volcanoes on which the kids can clamber – albeit under strict supervision. It's nice to know the trend towards wrapping children in cotton wool and stifling that crucial element of discovery and fun has not been extinguished completely.

Reassuringly, there is a distinct lack of trouble. There's a couple of little flare ups, but dinner ladies are quick to intercept and diffuse any problems.

And the mystery of how my son's school trousers always end up with a hole in the knee is solved as I witness him hurling himself around in a good impersonation – to remain in keeping with the 70s football theme – of legendary goalkeeper Pat Jennings.

I'm quiet relieved by the time the bell goes. I tried to join in the football match and got a boot to my ankle from a particular 'enthusiastic' boy as he tried to tackle me.

Afternoon back in the classroom is another busy affair. We're talking transport and so with a box of Lego and other construction toys laid before us the class is told to set about building a vehicle of the future. I head to the box and start 'helping' (I hesitate to say 'telling', but in truth that may be closer to reality) my son what to do.

About 10 minutes in and I realise most of the other parents are just watching what their child is doing, while I'm rummaging in the bottom of the box looking for a crucial brick to complete our creation.

A powered stand-on two-wheeled bike with the capability of firing up a hot air balloon was surely a work of genius? Time cruelly deprives me, sorry, my son, from showcasing this marvellous machine to the whole class. Curses.

By the time the end of the day is upon us and a story is read to the class I am feeling like I'd done a day's work and have renewed respect for the teacher.

Now, it would be easy to suggest the kids had been drilled to behave perfectly for when the parents were in. But for a class of youngsters that age, forcing them to keep quiet is no easy task.

And the way they respond to the teacher really is a credit to both her and the school.

I was also very aware of expecting, or, more to the point, wanting, to enjoy the day and be impressed. But I still feel I judged it with an open mind and still found it scored top marks.

There is a respect, it seems, between teacher and pupil which oils the wheels of the school day and appears to deliver mutual co-operation.

Responsible

Of course, it would be wrong to say this was a class set amid a school of cherubs displaying different forms of angelic behaviour. The school has troublemakers, perhaps as much as any others. But the no-nonsense approach means little escapes unpunished. Or should that be unaddressed?

An incident in the playground during morning break resulted in the teacher not shouting at them, but quietly and calmly explaining how very disappointed she was in the behaviour of a minority. You could see all of their little faces drop.

And as the cheeks of a couple reddened, it was clear to see who was responsible. It was well handled.

There is also the issue that this is hardly inner-city stuff. Whitstable is not a deprived area after all, and many of its parents have middle class stamped in large letters on their foreheads.

Yet it was truly heartening to see these young children having their future shaped in such a positive and reassuring way.

And for those who suspect discipline is lacking from the go-get, I saw quite the opposite. These were children who were being taught right from wrong. Who were being told that kindness and concern to their fellow man was as important as learning the alphabet.

For that alone, we should consider the future in safe hands.

Budding young stars get funding from KCC

TWENTY promising young athletes carrying Kent's Olympic hopes have received vital help from Kent County Council.

They were presented with funding during a ceremony at Oakwood House in Maidstone.

The 20 top-level athletes are from Maidstone, Ashford, Canterbury, Swale, Tunbridge Wells, Dartford, Shepway, Tonbridge and Malling and Sevenoaks.

They were nominated by their national sports bodies to be recognised and receive funding from Kent County Council to help in their bid to compete and aim for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

The funding was awarded to help towards training, equipment and development.

The council said to help them reach their maximum potential at the highest level they were specially selected to receive support from KCC.

The backing includes grant aid to individuals of £1,000, a year-long sport science support programme in partnership with University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich, branded sports clothing, access to workshops and training to assist with raising the performers profile.

Scheme

KCC cabinet member for communities councillor Mike Hill said: "We are delighted to be able to offer our support to these promising athletes on their bid for Olympic and Paralympic success.

"To be recognised by their national sports organisations shows their exceptional abilities and I look forward to hearing about their promising futures."

Meanwhile, the leader of KCC Paul Carter visited Aylesford School – Sports College to celebrate the new school and recent exam success.

The state-of-the-art school is one of six secondary schools in the county that has benefited from a multi-million pound government PFI scheme.

Specialising in sport and science, last year the school enjoyed its best GCSE results, with the number of students achieving five A*-C grades up 23 per cent from 2007.

HIGH HOPES: The 20 young athletes will each receive a £1,000 grant, a sports science support programme and branded sports clothing

Government project shows GCSE results are now on the rise

THE Aimhigher government-funded project to get more youngsters into higher education is doing just that, according to the latest figures.

Students that come under the Aimhigher Kent and Medway partner schools have improved their GCSE results once more.

Now 71 per cent of partner schools improved on their GCSE results compared with last year.

It said the proportion of students achieving 5 A*-Cs, which includes English and maths, at GCSE is continuing to grow.

Just a few years ago, a mere 20 per cent of students from partner schools achieved that benchmark.

In 2008, this figure rose to 28 per cent.

Aimhigher said the gap between the average GCSE results of its target schools and the Kent and Medway average is consistently narrowing.

In 2004, there was a 23 per cent point difference compared to the latest showing of 20 per cent.

The GCSE average point score has increased at a higher rate in its partner schools than in the non-partner schools in Kent and Medway from 2007-08.

Partner schools have a 12.11 point increase in 2007-08 and non-partner schools have a 9.35 point increase in 2007-08.

Aimhigher Kent and Medway said it works on a regional level as a partnership with local universities, further education colleges and schools.

It works with students in a variety of ways such as arranging visits to local universities and colleges, through using current university students to act as mentors and ambassadors, and by going into schools to speak with students.

It also works with parents to ensure they are actively involved in the process of higher education.

Aimhigher Kent and Medway also works with employers to ensure all relevant parties have an input into the promotion and development of higher education locally.

Aimhigher Kent and Medway is based at Canterbury Christ Church University, and its partners include Canterbury Christ Church University, the University of Greenwich, the University College for the Creative Arts, the University of Kent, the Open University, Canterbury College, Hadlow College, MidKent College, North West Kent College, South Kent College, Thanet College and West Kent College.

The online teaching programme used in learning new sports

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

AYLESFORD School Sports College is one of the first schools in Kent to sign up to a new online teaching resource that encourages schools to use a variety of physical activities to re-engage young people who are at risk of opting out of school life.

Sky Sports Living for Sport, developed by the Youth Sport Trust in partnership with Sky Sports, gives pupils an opportunity to learn new sports, from rock climbing to fencing, with individual schools having the flexibility to decide on a programme of activities best suited to their pupils.

The school has partnered with Larkfield Leisure Centre, to offer alternative sporting activities including climbing and swimming to girls who have become disengaged with physical education.

The school has also established programmes in trampolining and judo.

When schools sign up to www.skysports.com/livingforsport they are joining an online resource which supports and aids teachers to develop alternative sports and activities within their schools.

Teachers can use these sessions to help pupils work towards self-development goals that help build interpersonal and leadership skills.

As the pupils grow and develop they are encouraged to put their new skills and confidence into practice by proposing and managing their own sporting events.

Sky Sports Living for Sport, which is supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families is available to all secondary schools and aims to support, motivate and inspire young people aged of 11-16 who are at risk of opting out of school life.

Youth Sport Trust chief executive Steve Grainger said: "Sport is a great way of bringing out the best in young people, particularly those who may otherwise shy away from everyday school life or lack confidence in the classroom.

"Sky Sports Living for Sport is a real success story, helping to motivate and inspire thousands of young people and we are thrilled that Aylesford School Sports College has signed up and become part of that success. It's an exciting time for the teachers and pupils involved in the initiative as they begin to experience just what sport has to offer them."

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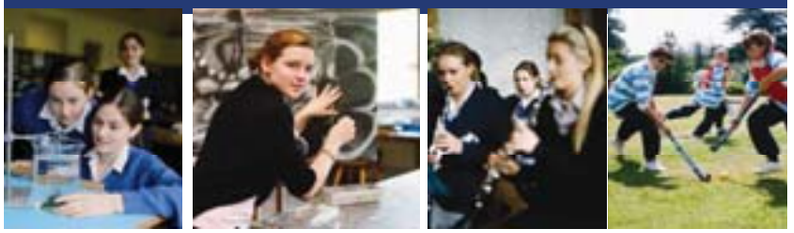

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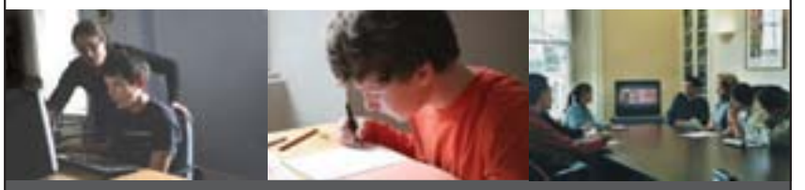

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Schools must endeavour to keep up with 'learning age'

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

A LEADING education guru believes technology is the way forward for schools, and it is now down to education establishments to keep up with the pupils.

Getting left behind now will severely hamper students' quest for useful careers later in life, said Professor Stephen Heppell, who is regarded as a leading expert on learning, new technologies and future schools.

Prof Heppell is the chairman of New Media Environments at Bournemouth University, Emeritus Professor at Anglia Ruskin University and Visiting Professor at the University of Wales.

With easy access to computers and the internet at home, children are now taking in technology so fast, schools must work harder to stay in front or risk a generation of disengaged learners.

During a visit to Holmesdale Technology College in Snodland to run a series of workshops looking at how to maximise use of the school's rich technological resources, he said the world was now changing so fast, today's children had an unprecedented portfolio of ways in which they could learn.

Advantage

He said: "Several years ago children were soaking up new technology; now they are mixing and matching how they make this technology work with no regard for barriers that we may create.

"This isn't the information age or the mechanical age; this is now the learning age."

Both Holmesdale and its federation sister, The Malling School in East Malling, have already seen significant investments in technology.

This year's newly-appointed director of e-learning Gary Hollingsbee has ensured wireless broadband internet access, interactive whiteboards, a computer for each child and video recording suites can be used to gain maximum educational advantage.

The federation now has its own YouTube channel where videos created by the students can be hosted.

Federation principal Ian Hobson said Prof Heppell's approach in challenging how children learn held many useful lessons for both schools.

He said: "Technology of all kinds, from laptops to video cameras and even mobile phones, should be embraced and used to give students a more relevant education which will more adequately prepare them for the ever-changing outside world."

Science week perfect for young, inquisitive minds

TODAY'S generations have arguably seen some of the most major advances in the sciences ever, but it's not over yet.

With advances in technology showing no signs of abating, attending National Science and Engineering Week events is vital for young students if they don't want to miss out.

There is huge range of events around the UK in schools, science centres, universities and even on the street, during the week from March 6-15.

Here in Kent, there two major events.

On March 12 from 8pm, there will be an illustrated presentation by Colin Gale from Bethlem Royal Hospital and Caroline Smith from the National Portrait Gallery at Christ Church Hall, Fairfield Road, off Beckenham High Street, Beckenham.

It is free and open to everyone.

And on March 14-15, you can go on a voyage of scientific discovery at the home of Charles Darwin at Down House near Orpington, as you take part in various science station activities and experiments.

Normal admission prices apply, and it is open to families.

Elsewhere, children can get activity packs and take part in a Darwin in Space competition, plus join mass participation activities like Save Our Bees, Change Exchange, and an online programme of events.

National Science and Engineering Week is coordinated by the British Science Association in partnership with the Engineering and Technology Board and funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

A spokesman said: "This is a 10-day celebration of science and engineering, with events organised by a large and varied range of organisations and individuals, including hospitals, schools, industry and museums. Venues range from shopping centres to pubs and churches."

She said the theme this year is Change, which fits in with Darwin200 and the International Year of Astronomy, both happening in 2009.

In all there will be around 3,500 events; from hands-on activities to discussions, tours and online activities, and about 1.4 million are expected to take part. For more information, visit www.nsew.org.uk.

Parents urged to know their child's web use

BROWSING the millions of pages on the internet is a quick and easy way for children to learn, but as most parents now know, it is also inherent with danger.

Censorship will never really work on the anarchic internet, so sensible surfing is the answer – and awareness is everything.

With that in mind, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre is encouraging Kent parents to become more involved in understanding what their children are doing online.

It is supporting the county's schools to continue delivering Thinkuknow training, which has already reached more than 1.7 million children across the UK.

Kent County Council's e-safety officer, Rebecca Avery and PC Martin Carter, the force Youth Crime Reduction Officer from Kent Police, visited the Hugh Christie Technology College in Tonbridge, to promote e-safety awareness to pupils.

The school has already taken a positive approach in educating students about e-safety.

KCC cabinet member for children, families and education standards Cllr Leyland Ridings said: "The internet is a fabulous resource for learning and one of the most popular pastimes. We teach our children and young people life skills for the big wide world – it's important we do the same for the world wide web."

PC Martin Carter, who has just retired after 22 years service from Kent Police, added: "Young people are still entering too much personal information onto websites, therefore placing themselves and their families at risk. I would urge parents to take a greater interest in what their children are doing online.

"If you suspect any inappropriate activity or are suspicious about someone's behaviour, please contact police or speak to someone you can trust.

"There are many organisations that you can contact and speak to about any concerns you may have, be it a child you believe maybe in danger or to discuss the suspicious activity of someone you know."

Headteacher at Hugh Christie Technology College, Jon Barker, said: "The internet is a powerful learning resource. We want to encourage young people to use the internet safely and responsibly. Unfortunately, a small minority of adults and children use the internet to exploit others.

"We want to continue to reinforce the message given in our assemblies on internet and mobile phone safety and the effects of cyber-bullying. We hope it will help all children to recognise potentially dangerous behaviour of the misuse of this new technology."

Kent County Council and Kent Police has launched a DVD called 'Be Safe, e-Safe' including a short film produced by young people from Kent and Medway for other young people and now includes clips explaining ways to use three commonly used sites safely.

Grand designs give colleges room to grow

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

COLLEGES in the county are spending millions upgrading facilities and in some cases moving and completely rebuilding.

They are determined not to be left behind as demand for better higher education continues to grow.

One of the biggest investments is the £86 million being spent moving MidKent College from its present sites at City Way and Hosted in Medway to Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham.

It will be opening time for the new September intake.

The new site is at the heart of an area of Medway renowned for its focus on education – the campuses of the Universities of Greenwich, Kent and Canterbury Christ Church and the Royal School of Military Engineering are all within walking distance.

The Medway campus will offer all the same courses currently being run at its current sites, but will be able to accommodate almost 30 per cent more students, making it an ideal location to cater for those popular courses with a high demand for places.

It is made up of three four-storey buildings linked by two transparent pavilions set in beautiful grounds next to a public park also being funded by the college.

All new and returning students can look forward to using first-class facilities coupled with the latest technology, with classrooms, workshops and study zones fitted out with brand new equipment and furniture.

There are study, IT and library resources and social zones offering students a modern and dynamic campus helping them learn and socialise.

BUILDING BLOCKS: MidKent College is moving to new £86 million building that will be ready for students in time for the September intake this year

Personal

The opening marks the start of a period of modernisation for MidKent College which will launch a programme of improvements at its Oakwood Park Centre in Maidstone.

The college remains committed to ensuring local students have access to a wide range of academic and vocational courses and flexible study options, encouraging both the achievement of personal goals and involvement in the community.

MidKent College principal Stephen Grix said: "The new Medway Campus will provide our students with learning facilities that rival some of the best in the UK, giving the people of Medway what they need and deserve: better access to top-quality teaching and learning, and improved progression to higher education."

A multi-million pound modernisation programme is also underway at North West Kent College in Dartford.

Five buildings will be knocked down in the first phase of the development. The rebuild will take three years to complete and will provide modern facilities and a stylish new landmark for travellers travelling along the A2.

The original Victorian building – K Block – from which the college developed and which was the first building in the town to receive a blue plaque, will be kept and thoroughly renovated.

The rebuilding was approved by the Learning and Skills Council, which provided 81 per cent of the funding.

Rebuilding the college is budgeted at £125m, of which £45m is being spent at Gravesend and the rest at the larger Dartford campus.

The current new buildings at Gravesend should be finished within the year and then at Dartford after that.

Monica Box (pictured) is the principal of South Kent College.

She said: "We plan to merge to form a new college partnership in the very near future but the aims will remain the same. Good buildings provide excellent facilities promoting strong recruitment which leads to good local success for communities and businesses.

Regeneration

"We want South Kent to benefit as soon as possible. With a new-build, enrolments will rise by around 15 per cent in the first year. We have plans ready to go in Ashford.

"The college also wants to link development of our buildings in Dover to maritime skills and in Folkestone, a new-build could further improve our links with the university, giving a boost to the local education and skills.

"Some of the biggest growth areas in the county are in areas served by South Kent College.

"Regeneration has always been advanced when it is supported by a good engine for skills development.

"We want to be that engine, we know we can be, and we would like the capital investment to match that ambition."

What next?

North West Kent College has the answer.

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25th March 2009	4:00pm - 7:00pm	(Hadlow)
23rd April 2009	4:00pm - 7:00pm	(Canterbury & Mottingham)
30th April 2009	4:00pm - 7:00pm	(Hadlow)
20th May 2009	4:00pm - 7:00pm	(Hadlow)
31st May 2009	11:00am - 3:00pm	(Canterbury)
3rd June 2009	4:00pm - 7:00pm	(Canterbury)
10th June 2009	4:00pm - 7:00pm	(Mottingham)
14th June 2009	10:00am - 4:00pm	(Hadlow)
28th June 2009	11:00am - 3:00pm	(Mottingham)

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MidKent College

No need to travel to get the best from higher education

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

SCHOOL, college, and then university – it's a big adventure, but that last step can cost the Earth, making it all but impossible for some to attend.

But for Kent residents there is a simple answer to saving thousands of pounds a year – attend a Kent university.

We have some of the best in the country and with them being on our doorstep students can save fortunes on constant travel and accommodation.

While there will always be a need for some to attend far-flung university because they need to do a rare course, or simply want that adventure in independence, it does make good financial sense to stay in the county.

We asked some of our main universities to tell us why they are so special.

More than 40 years after it was established, the University of Kent continues to be a popular choice for students from the region.

Apart from the obvious financial benefits for those who choose to live at home while studying, there are reasons for the university's popularity with the region's students.

These include its place in the top tier of UK universities.

The Guardian's recent HE league tables ranked Kent 28th out of 117 listed HE institutions. It also has world-class and internationally recognised teaching and research.

The university came 24th in the Government's 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

And its consistent achievements in the National Student Survey are worth mentioning too – in 2008, and for the second year running it was voted the top university in London and the South East.

Europe

Students are also impressed by its highly accessible, vibrant and welcoming campuses at Canterbury and Medway; its first-class facilities, including campus accommodation and hospitality; its wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, part-time and flexible learning programmes; its excellent career prospects and graduate starting salaries, which are one of the best in the UK; and the high quality of its overall student experience.

A wide range of scholarships and the opportunity to develop an international outlook by meeting and engaging with 17,000 students from more than 140 countries are further attractions.

The university also has centres in Brussels and Paris, as well as more than 100 partner universities in mainland Europe, including number one ranked universities in many countries.

It provides students with the opportunity to study abroad and, with its wide and growing range of programmes with a particular European focus, has consolidated its reputation as the UK's 'European university'.

> **'I would encourage anyone from Kent who wants to go to university to explore what the University of Kent has to offer'**
>
> Miles Coulling, undergraduate

Miles Coulling, an undergraduate student from Ashford, explained his decision to study at the university's Canterbury campus was due to a combination of these attributes and factors.

He said: "I would encourage anyone from Kent who is thinking about going to university to first of all explore what the University of Kent has to offer," he said.

"I think they will find that they have a highly acclaimed, international institution right on their doorstep."

And Lisa-Marie Goodwin, from Maidstone, who is studying music technology at the university's Medway campus, added: "It's fantastic to have a university with amazing new facilities and historic buildings so close to home. I doubt I could have found better even if I had travelled further afield."

The University of Greenwich first began teaching at the Medway campus in Chatham Maritime in 1994. Since then the Edwardian redbrick and ivy-clad campus – dating from 1903 – has benefited from £50 million in investment.

Extensive new laboratories and research facilities, student halls of residences and social facilities including a new restaurant have been opened by Greenwich.

The campus, which is home to more than 4,700 Greenwich students, offers a wide and ever-increasing range of courses in science, engineering and nursing together with business, information technology and enterprise courses. There are also pharmacy courses jointly run with the University of Kent.

A French course is also available with plans for others languages.

Refurbished

The University of Greenwich at Medway has modern workshops and equipment, including a computer-aided design studio and a training dispensary for pharmacy students.

The Centre for Sport and Exercise Science has the latest in 3D movement and force analysis equipment.

The university also jointly owns and operates with Kent the Drill Hall Library and the Pilkington Building. The Drill Hall library houses computers, study areas, teaching rooms and a library in 100,000 square feet of space.

Pilkington contains a large lecture theatre, exhibition space, teaching rooms, a bistro-style café. Sports facilities include a sports hall, a gym with cardiovascular and weights rooms and outdoor tennis courts.

The on-campus bar, Coopers, offers meals and traditional pub games. Next door is Purple, a club venue. A general shop is also on campus.

Professor Alan Reed, the university's director of regional development, said: "We are very proud of the facilities and the courses we have developed since establishing the university campus in Medway in 1994.

"Our range of courses, supported by state-of-the-art facilities, is continuing to expand. Increasingly, we find that Kent residents are choosing us as their next place of study."

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services like teacher training, policing, health and social care.

The university is also a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic areas at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Vice chancellor, Prof Michael Wright, said: "Canterbury Christ Church University is renowned for academic excellence and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere and a community spirit.

"Canterbury Christ Church University seeks to serve the economic, social and cultural life of its community through a range of services and activities."

Academic activity is grouped within the university's five faculties – arts and humanities, business and management, education, health and social care, and social and applied sciences.

Included in the thriving student population, which numbers nearly 15,000, are mature students and students who study part-time.

As well as students from the county, the university welcomes many from all regions of the UK, other EU countries and overseas.

Graduation day for most of the students takes place in the spectacular setting of Canterbury Cathedral or Rochester Cathedral.

The original campus is on North Holmes Road, Canterbury, and the university has three other significant sites in the city – Hall Place Enterprise Centre; Augustine House, which is being redeveloped as a new library and learning resource centre opening in 2009; and the Sidney Cooper Gallery, which hosts student and high-profile touring exhibitions.

In addition to Canterbury, the university has campuses across Kent, all contributing to the local community – at Broadstairs; Tunbridge Wells; Medway, where the facility is part of the Universities at Medway partnership; and Folkestone, which is a partnership between Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich.

And finally, the University Centre Folkestone aims to increase the range and level of higher level learning opportunities in the region and support lifelong learning for young people and adults.

Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich deliver a range of degree programmes from the University Centre Folkestone.

The University Centre Folkestone is situated in the 30,000 sq ft Glassworks premises, which is owned and has been refurbished by the Creative Foundation.

University Centre Folkestone has been funded by the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, the South East England Development Agency and the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

It works with employers to identify education and training needs, and provides university level programmes in a range of disciplines related to the arts and creative industries, business and information, and communication and applied professional studies. It aims to create a resource of benefit to the regional and local community.

Prof Wright, added: "The University Centre Folkestone provides high quality local opportunities for people to access higher education. Canterbury Christ Church University is pleased to be working with the University of Greenwich and the Creative Foundation on a project that will nurture local talent within the population of Folkestone and contribute to the overall economic, social and cultural regeneration of the area."

I was worried about the future

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HIBERNIA COLLEGE

Canterbury Christ Church University

iTEACH

Skills Plus giving you opportunity to start a new career

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

IT IS never too late to make a career change, even if the decision has been forced on you because of redundancy.

That's the reassuring claim from Kent County Council which said its free adult education courses are more popular than ever.

Complacency in a job can be debilitating and lead to conditions like stress and anxiety.

But there is no reason why you should not examine the possibility of opening new lines of opportunity by learning different skills and finding new employment avenues.

For some, starting right back at the beginning is vital, but there is plenty of free help.

Skills Plus studies are free for those wanting to improve their numeracy and literacy levels, said KCC.

The scheme has proved particularly popular for helping improve reading, writing and maths which can help open so many more doors and chances of advancement.

Each student has a personalised study plan, designed around the individual's own requirements and abilities.

New students can join at any time during the year and attend at a time that suits them.

There are currently 12 centres across Kent and Skills Plus is also offered in the workplace or at community venues.

The benefits of adult education can go beyond gaining qualifications and increasing one's knowledge.

Existing students have said how much they have grown in confidence, helping them apply for jobs and have greater pride in what they can achieve.

Information

Many of those who study with the Kent Adult Education Service, known as KAES, return to take up other courses and have enjoyed meeting other people with similar interests and sharing ideas.

The health and fitness students have discovered greater physical well-being and for some people it has meant a new lease of life.

There are now lunchtime courses for just £4 each and at 45 minutes, they are perfect for people who have previously been unable to take exercise in their lunch break from work.

Information about new courses is regularly updated and available from local centres and from January the improved website will make it even easier to search for the right course.

KCC cabinet member for communities councillor Mike Hill said: "Skills Plus is the perfect answer for those who find their abilities in reading, writing and numeracy are preventing them from getting a better career, helping their children or completing some daily tasks.

"The students come to us for a whole host of reasons with a range of abilities and everyone has an individual study tailored to their needs.

"Skills Plus allows students to study at a pace that suits them and I would recommend anyone interested to find out more."

For more information and to book a course call the Kent Adult Education Service on 0845 606 5606 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/adulted.

CASE STUDY ONE

Ten-week literacy delivered to Abbey Waste Management Ltd

Phil Lowe, site manager at Abbey Waste Ltd, said: "These lads believed that they were at the bottom of the pile, especially in the environment they work in, but it was an opportunity for them to improve their skills with great support from their tutor Bob, which in turn has improved their lifestyle, enhanced their self-worth, built their confidence and boosted their self-esteem."

All the employees who participated in this course not only completed the literacy course, achieving a national qualification, but went on to enrol on a 10-week numeracy course.

CASE STUDY TWO

Families Achieving Together

Mother-of-two Beata Olubek, from Poland, joined English for Speakers of Other Languages on a Family Learning Course. She spoke only a couple of words of English, and Damion, her youngest son, was afraid to leave her side.

During the course she experienced many personal difficulties, but undeterred they continued to attend lessons.

Beata developed her vocabulary and understanding of the language, taking exams and progressing onto the next level.

Damion has also picked up the language well and has gained enough confidence to play with other children.

Damion will start nursery soon and Beata will continue her studies and work as a receptionist or in computing.

CASE STUDY THREE

Hospital staff enrolled on embedded literacy and numeracy courses

These two courses were individually tailored to the business needs of the NHS, embedding the teaching of literacy and numeracy into a reflexology and Indian head massage course.

The staff not only achieved nationally recognised qualifications in literacy and numeracy but also developed new complementary therapy skills that they were able to put into practise at work.

CASE STUDY FOUR

A Shipshape Education

P&O Ferries joined forces with Kent Adult Education to boost the literacy and numeracy skills of staff.

Every ship in the fleet has staff studying at the Skills Plus Centre in Dover.

P&O Ferries significantly invests in staff training and development and encourages staff to gain nationally recognised qualifications.

After Tim Whitaker, P&O Ferries training manager on board services, found some staff were experiencing difficulties with their training due to problems with their levels of literacy and numeracy, staff were encouraged to take part in a Skills Plus course.

Mr Whitaker said: "Already the change in some people has been so noticeable that it is fair to say it's been life-changing. Skills Plus really can help to give people the skills for life they require, boost confidence and improve their quality of life both at home and at work."

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KENT ADULT EDUCATION

Kent County Council

*Terms and conditions apply

Letters continued from page 36

arbitration in 1939, but the war intervened.

John King, Grove Park

Time to stand and fight

It is time we made a stand against this ridiculous proposal for an airport in the Thames Estuary.

Just as we led the fight and defeated the Government over plans for an airport at Cliffe six years ago, so too will we defeat this ill-starred scheme. An airport in the estuary is not feasible, not required and certainly not wanted. Such an idea should be abandoned for all the economic, environmental, political and practical reasons against it.

The threat of bird-strike and the possibility of an incident similar to the recent Hudson River accident in New York demonstrate why this is a non-starter and everyone except Boris Johnson knows it should never have been floated.

Such a scheme makes little sense when there are alternatives, such as Manston and the growing political will to construct high-speed rail networks, which could reduce domestic flights.

We have been vocal opponents since this was first raised last year, but now that plans are gathering pace we must step up the campaign. We, along with other colleagues on Medway Council, will be seeking support from all members and residents to oppose this scheme.

Together we can prevent Medway from being blighted by an airport which is not needed at all.

Cllr Janice Bamber, Peninsula Ward; Cllr Ken Bamber, Peninsula Ward; Cllr Phil Filmer; Peninsula Ward; Cllr Peter Hicks, Strood Rural; Cllr Tom Mason, Strood Rural; Cllr Les Wicks, Strood Rural – Medway Council

Dobbin of the Downs

Big does not necessarily mean beautiful. The Ebbsfleet horse sculpture design is unimaginative, as dull as dishwater, and offers no practical benefit to Kent.

When so much needs doing and so much is neglected, why must we be saddled with this incongruous monster?

We can ill afford to waste £2 million that could be put to better use. Furthermore, with so may collisions on the A2/M2, the last thing motorists need would be a major distraction so close to it. This is a road safety issue.

Ted Prangnell, Ashford

Rise up, noble Invicta

With reference to Mark Wallinger's white horse sculpture for Ebbsfleet. The Invicta prancing white horse has been a Kentish emblem since before Roman times.

Unvanquished, it has stood for freedom down the centuries. How magnificent Invicta would look at Ebbsfleet.

Why was it necessary to change it?

June Moore, Tunbridge Wells

You've boobed, Loader

So KOS Media's motoring correspondent Steve Loader thinks describing an old car as looking like a "pensioner in a boob tube" is funny (January 25).

I think it is insulting. What gives him the idea? Has he ever seen a pensioner looking like that? Perhaps when he becomes a pensioner we might have a look and see.

C Dadson, Dartford

Revitalising the Marsh

I hope that the decision for development at Lydd airport is soon brought to a conclusion and that it is a favourable one.

I support this excellent opportunity of employment for the people of Lydd and the surrounding area. It will revitalise the local economy and give Romney Marsh a much-needed boost, also increasing tourism to Shepway.

A regional airport could see the reopening of the railway, giving better access to Ashford, and also to the roads being improved. The birds and wildlife will adapt, like they always do. The two power stations, the airport and the MoD firing ranges will also work together, as they already have over the years, with no problems.

J Double, Lydd

Closing the loopholes

Concerning your front page last week, we should be recognising that corporate abuse of European Union law is to blame for the 'British jobs …' dispute, rather than foreign workers themselves.

Although trouble at the Lindsey oil refinery seems to have died down, the potential for a dispute on the Isle of Grain reminds us that the underlying problem rumbles on. But it's vital that we resist the attempts of those on the far right to use the unrest to stir up racism and xenophobia.

Instead of blaming 'foreign workers', we should be challenging the rights of multinationals to further undercut local pay rates and exploit workers. And it is loopholes in EU law that are making this possible. Recent European court rulings have seen the Posted Workers Directive used to justify paying foreign workers the minimum wage only – not the going rate for skilled workers in Britain.

With four other MEPs, I am calling for a full revision of the Posted Workers Directive, so it focuses on improving workers' rights at home and abroad.

Let us remember, after all, that 1.5 million Britons work in other EU countries and that they are entitled to decent wage. It's clear that the original intention of the Posted Workers Directive – to provide equal treatment for all workers – is upheld.

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP, Green Party

Hospital's flood threat

It was great news for the people of Dover to learn that funds were available to build the long overdue new hospital.

However, many residents have concerns over the proposed site, which has yet to get planning permission and is liable to flooding.

A great deal of inaccurate information has been voiced about the hospital being safe for users, that patients will be able to use the hospital without exposing others to the risk of infection (due to contaminated water) during times the area is flooded.

The Environment Agency has confirmed to me its opinion that the site is not suitable as the risks of flooding are too high. The people of Dover who are likely to use the new hospital need to be assured that it will be safe to do so. If the site is on an active flood plain, is it the best place to invest NHS resources?

There is a public meeting at Dover Town Hall on Thursday, February 26, from 2-5pm. It would be helpful if all those attending were aware of all the facts about the flood risks before that meeting so informed decisions can be made.

The Environment Agency can be contacted by phone on 1732 223224 (fax 01732 223289).

DV Tutton, Dover

Fuelling my suspicions

I refer to Dave Stewart's letter in the February 1 edition of your excellent newspaper. Yes, I have noticed rises in basic food products. Mixed dried fruit, for example, is up from 41p per packet to 65p, not to mention baked beans, chopped and plum tomatoes.

Isn't it interesting that all supermarkets boast of the number of price reductions made and never mention the corresponding price rises on goods, obviously taking the example of successive Chancellors, giving with one hand and taking with the other.

Has anyone else noticed how fuel prices are beginning to rise again? A litre of diesel has now breached the £1 barrier despite crude oil being at its lowest price for years.

I wonder if it is a Government ploy to reduce the number of vehicles by pricing the motorist off the road, or an attempt to claw back lost tax revenue from cleaner, leaner and more economical engines.

John Gamet, Keston

Times have changed

I would have hoped Terry Hudson (letters, February 8), would have had a change of opinion in his speed-related thinking, considering letters on these pages from those who think otherwise, statistics, and television.

Most of our generation went through the boy racer mentality – including myself – posing in my kit car and doing the 'ton' in my father's Ford Zodiac on the newly-built M2 motorway.

But – and this doesn't excuse my actions – it was far quieter on the roads during the 1950s and 60s, so authorities now have to take steps to stop the carnage on our congested roads. Hopefully, most people will agree with the lower limits, which I understand will mostly be on housing estates.

I would like to remind Terry of the old saying: "Better to be minutes late in this life than years early in the next."

James Mason, Sittingbourne

You ain't seen nothing

I see the EU is proposing quotas for fishing and angling. Like all the harmonisation policies signed up to by our political parties, this is another disaster.

The Common Fisheries Policy has cost 90,000 jobs in the fishing industry. Daniel Hannan says it destroyed what ought to have been a great renewable resource for Britain.

It was a disaster because the parties in power signed up to it instead of standing up for British interests. A report in the Mail on Sunday says Tony Blair is to be nominated by French president Nicolas Sarkozy to be president of Europe. The post – the embodiment of the often denied, but well advanced scheme to turn the EU into a super state – is supposedly to help Europe speak with one voice.

Blair, Mandelson and Clark – discredited and disreputable. A further step along this road is the recently formed and deployed EU task force, the EU NAVFOR, made up of warships from the UK and other EU nations. And as regards angling, the quota scheme, if it comes about, will wipe out, within a few years, a pastime enjoyed by many.

Perhaps if, as PJE Pepper suggests, they have allocated workers to accompany them, they could do us all a favour and throw them in the water rather than the fish.

And if you think happened to the fishing industry is bad, just wait till the French or German companies get their hands on our new nuclear power stations. You ain't seen nothing yet.

Stephen Donoghue, Strood

In the comfort zone

Colin Packman asks for my views on seatbelts on out-of-town buses. You could argue that all buses should be fitted with seatbelts, then people can make their own choice.

I suppose the problem is that in the new religion of litigation and greed, would standing passengers who could not find a seat then be able to sue in the event of an accident? Perhaps bus companies would then be forced to ban standing passengers.

Would they also have to provide baby and child seats, as you would in a car? Who would be responsible for belting in school children on buses?

So belts should be provided, but I would say that if you choose not to wear a seatbelt or stand, any compensation claims should be greatly reduced, but such legislation is beyond the power of KCC to introduce.

Seatbelts are not fitted to trains, yet they travel at much higher speeds. In short, there's no simple answer.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Pay rise questionnaire

Many people will have seen the news that KCC is offering a one per cent pay rise to staff in the coming financial year.

In the current global financial crisis, with people facing or fearing redundancy, it is unsurprising there is concern about high pay deals and handsome reward packages for certain staff in public bodies.

It is easy to assume all council staff get this kind of treatment. And equally easy to forget that for frontline staff such as teaching assistants, highways repair teams, social workers, youth workers and library assistants, there is a lot of hard work – often in less than ideal circumstances – and no 'gold-plated' package.

On top of that, KCC is one of the biggest employers in the county. Local businesses rely on council staff for custom and there's a risk that if KCC employees are badly affected by next year's pay settlement, others will suffer as a knock-on effect. Kent Labour is trying to get a better picture of how people feel about the one per cent offer.

We are asking people to fill in an online questionnaire to help us understand how staff and the public feel and to guide us as we decide the best approach to take at the budget meeting on February 19.

Our questionnaire can be found at www.kentlabour.org.uk/html/kcc_pay_consultation.html.

Cllr Mike Eddy, shadow leader, KCC

God is not to blame

To blame religion for the world's ills is a classic misdirection.

It would be just as ridiculous to blame cars for road rage and different nationalities for racial violence. So why have Protestants and Catholics been killing each other, both alleging to be Christian? Why are Sunnis and Shias killing each other, both claiming to follow Islam?

The problem is people hand over their actions and thinking to so-called experts, who are just false prophets manipulating religion to suit their own purposes.

Very few bother to examine their religion and find out what it truly represents. Most call for a love of God and a love of one's fellow man. A classic example must be the Pope who formed an alliance with Hitler.

He went against everything Christ stood for, but how many of his followers left the Church? Even today the Anglican and Catholic churches, both with much blood on their hands, still preach their own versions of Christ's teachings to suit their own purposes. And their sheep follow meekly behind.

Christ taught us to love one another and even to love our enemies, not bomb them. Bush and Blair claim to be Christian, but who pulls them up on it? Certainly not those who prefer ignorance to truth. It is false religions and false prophets that have caused many of the world's problems, together with the ignorant people who have blindly and unquestioningly followed them.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Price of compassion

Alan Marsh's defence of Kent Health Watch in the face of little demand for this 'signposting service' – 216 calls in four months – clearly shows he and his Conservative colleagues on KCC are increasingly out of touch.

Nonsensical offerings such as "people want to be reassured – it is better than antibiotics" (what does that mean, exactly?) convey the patronising and self-satisfied manner in which KCC's Tories approach issues around health and the proper use of public money.

Don't you worry your heads about such things – Marsh, Carter and friends are taking care of it all for you. Doesn't that feel good?

I found it interesting that the eight per cent of calls about KCC's social care services were not addressed by Mr Marsh, perhaps because KCC is more interested in keeping an eye on other public services than it is in making sure its own house is in order.

I also found it interesting that, on finding out each call made to Kent Health Watch so far had effectively cost the taxpayer £694, Mr Marsh's response was that "it stands up economically, because for such a small amount we are able to give confidence and compassion".

Setting aside the issue that in the current economic climate £694 isn't a small amount to most people, trust a Conservative to feel able to put a price on compassion.

Cllr Mark Fittock, Labour shadow cabinet member for public health, KCC

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Going green on university menu

STUDENTS at a Kent university are taking part in a nationwide event aimed at encouraging everyone in education to think about their environment and cutting their carbon emissions.

The Universities at Medway have been running a number of events as part of Go Green Week including a new menu serving dishes only made from Fairtrade and locally sourced products.

Antoinette Kriel, president of the Environmental Society which organised this week's events, said: "The aim is to raise awareness amongst students and staff and encourage them to take action in whatever way they can."

Chef's dish proves he is no small fry

A KENT student has been chosen as a national finalist in an annual competition for the best potato dish.

Jamie Cooper, from Canterbury College, is now set to battle it out against nine other spud-lovers to be crowned Great Potato Challenge Champion 2009.

The 18-year-old, who is studying for a professional chef's NVQ, was thrilled to make it to the final of the competition, which is run by the Potato Council, for his 'chicken stack with walnut croquettes'.

He said: "I actually took my time with my entry, researching ideas in various recipe books. I also took inspiration from dishes we have cooked at college, and then combined these ideas to come up with my final recipe entry."

Heike Kroemer, Potato Council marketing executive, said: "The response to this year's competition has been overwhelming; we were delighted to receive so many well thought out and inspirational potato-based recipes."

New scheme to put people on right path

Seminars aimed at making best career choice

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN is set to be launched to raise the profile of apprenticeships and other training options among careers advisors, young people and employers in Kent and Medway.

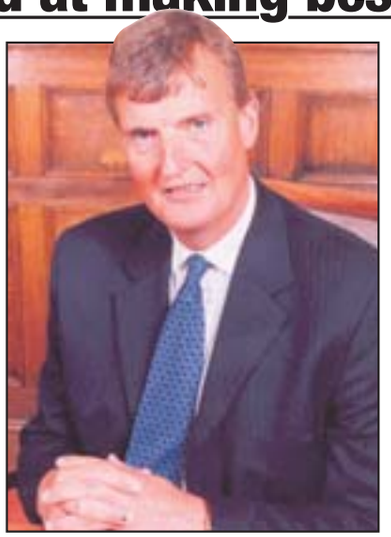
Seminars are being held across the county, called Informed Choices, which include a presentation on the range of training, learning and earning opportunities that the vocational qualifications offer.

Skills

The initiative is being led by the Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO) and will begin during National Apprenticeship Week, which is being held between February 23 and 29.

Cllr Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, said: "Work-based learning is the appropriate path for a substantial number of young people, providing opportunities to acquire industry relevant skills in the work place supported by approved training packages.

"Too many people end up in jobs by happenstance rather than through informed choice."



RIGHT PATH: KCC leader Paul Carter says too many people end up in the wrong career

Apprenticeships combine work-based practical training with learning. Apprentices can learn 'on the job', at a college or a training centre.

The seminars have are aimed at Kent Connexions workers, who act as careers advisors to young people, headteachers, teachers and school careers advisors and focus on the benefits of apprenticeships as a route into work.

Lindsay Jardine, KATO network manager, said: "This seminar provides an ideal opportunity for Kent and Medway careers advisors to learn more about the advantage of apprenticeships and hear from some of the local apprentices and employers who have benefited from them."

Employers and apprentices will take part in a question and answer session during the seven events being held across the county.

Nationally, the week is being supported by Sir Alan Sugar, who stars in adverts extolling the benefits of work-based learning to businesses.

KATO is also organising a series of roadshows for young people and a programme of workshops for employers.

The organisation represents 36 training providers across Kent and Medway.

Free seminars are taking place in Maidstone, Margate, Sittingbourne, Ashford, Dover, Rochester and Dartford.

• ***Full details are available at www.kato-training.com or by calling 0800 756 6953. Places can be booked by emailing info@kato-training.com.***

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Skills boost for ex-Gurkhas

RETIRED Ghurkhas are being re-trained by a recruitment company to work in railway engineering.

Ganymede Solutions, which is part of the RTC Group, specialises in recruitment within safety critical environments on rail maintenance and infrastructure projects.

Gary Hewett, the company's managing director, said: "Gurkhas are renowned for their dedication and high work rate and coming out of the service they have a very high skill set.

"Typically they have been combat engineers who can apply themselves to a broad range of tasks, which makes them ideally suited to rail projects. We are helping them transfer their skills for work in new areas."

There are around 5,000 ex-Gurkhas in the UK and in Kent the Royal Gurkha Rifles are based in Folkestone.

Mr Hewett said: "We have tendered for a contract with Network Rail to supply teams of skilled labour on temporary contracts to supplement the permanent workforce, helping the organisation cope with peaks and troughs while ensuring that the rail network is kept on track.

"This would be the first project that a team of Gurkhas would be working on so it is very exciting for us. It is a unique initiative and is one which provides a tremendous opportunity for the Gurkhas."

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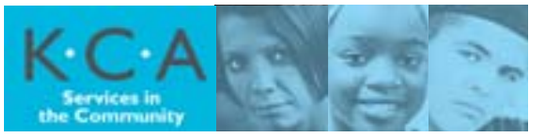

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Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher via the GTP route, which currently pays £15,113 during training?

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with **Canterbury Christ Church University,** is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2009 in

Art Design & Technology Music Mathematics Science

Further details, including an application form, are available from the School's website, www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk or from Mike O'Shea,
e-mail: moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk.
The closing date for applications is Friday, 27 March

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northfleet technology college

Colyer Road, Northfleet
Gravesend, Kent DA11 8BG
Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, we wish to offer the following:

Trainee placement on the following Graduate Teacher Programmes from Sept 2009: Maths Science Music

The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in their chosen subject. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently.

Salary will be £15,113

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk. Closing Date is Friday the 27th of February.

The smart way to find your next job
JobsforKent.co.uk

HMYOI ROCHESTER >

HM PRISON SERVICE
Public Sector Prisons

EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

FIRE SAFETY TECHNICIAN
£22,041 - £24,113

HMYOI Rochester is a closed institution housing around 757 young offenders on the outskirts of Rochester.

We need an Industrial Grade 1 Pattern B Fire Technician to carry out a variety of tasks ranging from advising on Fire Safety, inspecting equipment and carrying out fire risk assessments to delivering fire training, maintaining up-to-date records and preparing regular reports on Fire and related issues.

You will also evaluate local contingency plans for fire emergencies. Your IOSH Managing Safely qualification will be supported by a current Fire Extinguisher Trades Association Certificate and, ideally, experience in a prison fire safety environment. Additionally you will hold [or be keen to work towards] a NEBOSH National General Certificate.

Excellent benefits include 25 days' holiday and opportunities to develop into a management role.

For an application form and detailed information pack please contact Belinda Lyttle, Kent, Sussex & South Central Recruitment Team, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3PZ. Tel: 01634 673110. Email: kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 2 March 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

KAFEC
kent association of fe corporations

Director of Development
Salary: Circa £50,000 per annum
(more for an exceptional candidate)

The Kent Association of FE Corporations (KAFEC) is an innovative partnership of the seven FE colleges based in Kent & Medway. Formally established in 1994 its main purpose is to raise the profile and reputation of FE in Kent and Medway while continually driving up the quality of FE provision. Through collaborative working, mutual support and the sharing of best practice, KAFEC aims to influence the development of education and training for the benefit of all learners.

We are seeking to appoint a Director of Development to drive forward the implementation of our Key Strategic Priorities. The successful applicant will be both innovative and strategic in their thinking with a proven track record of working with partnerships and managing the successful delivery of externally funded projects. Positive and pro-active in response to the volume and complexity of your work you will have excellent communication skills, the ability to negotiate bids and contracts and must be extremely self-motivated.

The Chair of KAFEC is held by one of the seven colleges, for a fixed term of three years. The current Chair is Principal of MidKent College and the post holder will be based at MidKent College, until 31st July 2010. Thereafter, the post holder may be based at any one of the seven KAFEC colleges in Kent and Medway.

Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure and List 99 clearance.

For an informal discussion about this post please contact the Chair of KAFEC, Stephen Grix on 01634 884387, alternatively by e-mail: stephen.grix@midkent.ac.uk

To apply:
Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone: 01634 884511

For further information about KAFEC visit: www.kafec.org.uk

The closing date for the above post is Friday 27th February 2009

Action for Business College · Positive about Disabled People · Investor in People · Working Towards Investors in Diversity www.iidvb.com

KAFEC is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under represented groups including black, minority, ethnic and disabled people.

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

St Edmund's Catholic School
Specialist College for the performing arts

Old Charlton Road,
Dover, Kent CT16 2QB

required for September 2009

GRADUATES

to achieve qualified teacher status through the one year Graduate Teachers' Programme teaching **Mathematics, Science, Leisure & Tourism, & MFL** (French, Spanish, Italian: any combination) to GCSE and/or A Level.

Apply in writing, enclosing a C.V. to
Mr C. J. Atkin (Headteacher)
Tel: 01304 201551 Fax: 01304 202226
Email: office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk
An enhanced CRB disclosure check will be required
Closing Date: Friday 6th March Interviews: Tuesday 17th March

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Cleaning/Security/Public Services/Health & Safety/ Environmental Health	**06/122**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum	
Coordinator Animal Care and Land Based Studies	**08/156**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum	
Lecturer Beauty and Holistic Therapies	**06/142**
27.75 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Key Skills Media	**06/67**
37 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum	
Lecturer Public Services	**08/145**
37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum	
Lecturer Public Services	**06/92**
37 hrs or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum (pro rata for part time posts)	
Lecturer Health & Social Care	**L90**
18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Mechanical Engineering	**06/59**
18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum	
Supply NVQ Assessors:	**S/NVQ/ASS**
Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum Business Administration Customer Services Team Leading	
Trainer Demonstrator Automotive Engineering	***08/67***
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum	
Trainer Demonstrator Fabrication and Welding	**TD3**
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum	
Supply Trainer Demonstrator Stage Lighting and Scenic Construction Crafts	***S/TD***
Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum	
Supply Trainer Demonstrator Mechanical	**S/TD/MEC**
Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum\	

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

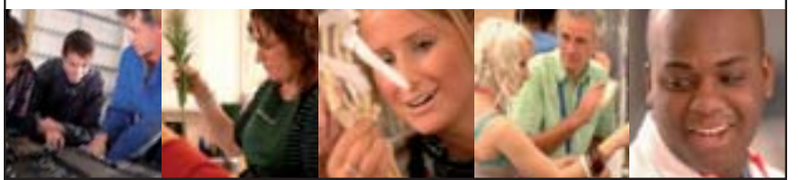
- *Pension & Life Assurance Scheme*
- *Proximity to main bus & train stations*
- *Close to City Centre*
- *Sports Hall & Gym*
- *Generous Holiday Allowance*
- *Staff Discount Scheme*

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 2nd March 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

Positive about Disabled People · Investor in People · European Union European Social Fund Investing in jobs and skills



Career Opportunities

Sheppey College

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Caretaker **ref: 09/07**

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

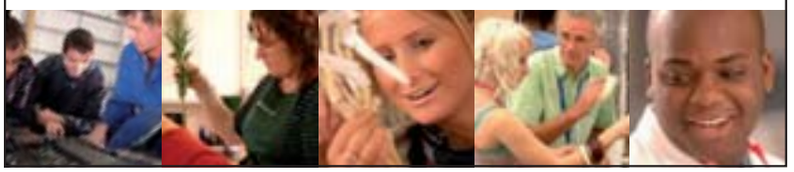
Staff benefits include:

- **Pension & Life Assurance Scheme**
- **Proximity to main bus & train stations**
- **Generous Holiday Allowance**
- **Close to Town Centre**

The closing date for the above post is Monday 2nd March 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*



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DOVER IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE >

HM PRISON SERVICE
Public Sector Prisons

EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

INDUSTRIAL GRADE 3 CATERER
£19,851 RISING TO £21,074 PA

With more than 50,000 staff, the Prison Service recognises the importance of achieving through people. There couldn't be a more exciting time to join us, as we implement ambitious modernisation plans throughout our operations.

Dover Immigration Removal Centre provides secure but humane accommodation for appellant and failed male asylum seekers aged over 18. The regime offers as much freedom of movement and association as possible and encourages detainees to make the most productive use of their time whilst respecting their dignity and right to individual expression.

We need a positive, flexible person to help ensure the efficient running of our catering service. This will include everything from supervising kitchen assistants, training detainees and managing stock to ensuring food production meets health, safety and PSO 5000 requirements. You may also be expected to work a minimum of alternative weekends.

To qualify you will need a City & Guilds 706/1 & 2 or NVQ Level 1 & 2 equivalent together with an Intermediate Food Hygiene and Safety certificate. A knowledge of ethnic cooking and experience of working in an industrial kitchen would both be welcomed. Full training will be provided, so you should be keen to develop your qualifications and skills.

All candidates must be British or Commonwealth Citizens, British Protected Persons or EEA Nationals.

To apply, please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk or visit our website www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 27 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

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TEACHERS

Required now for supply and long term work in your local area

EXCELLENT DAILY RATE

Call for an immediate interview

01474 359333

Or E-mail; office@classiceducation.co.uk

www.classiceducation.co.uk

A Kent based company you can rely on

HMYOI ROCHESTER, MEDWAY PRISONS HEALTH PARTNERSHIP >

HM PRISON SERVICE
Public Sector Prisons

EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

HMYOI Rochester requires Registered General Nurses, Mental Health Nurses and Learning Difficulties Nurses:

BAND 5 REGISTERED NURSES (GENERAL, MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES)
£20,225 - £26,123 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £1,542 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

The Registered General Nurse will nurse in a general practice environment and respond calmly in a changing environment or to urgent events. Skills including chronic disease management, good assessment skills, triage, minor illnesses, sexual health and health promotion skills are desirable.

The Registered Mental Health or Learning Difficulties nurse will assess and support a range of community mental health, mental illness and behavioural issues including work with substance and alcohol misuse. Skills needed include crisis intervention and risk management and work with self-harm. CBT and behavioural management skills and experience working with conduct disorder, ADHD or Autism/Aspergers spectrum behaviours will be valued.

Nursing in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

HMYOI Rochester requires two Band 4 Health Support Workers delivering a range of one-to-one and group interventions:

BAND 4 HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS (PRIMARY CARE & PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE) – HMYOI ROCHESTER (HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER)
£17,316 - £20,818 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £952 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

With a relevant qualification preferably to diploma level or NVQ 3/4 or equivalent or relevant qualifying experience in health, health education, or social care service delivery you will have a proven record and work well in partnership with other professionals. You must have good basic educational skills and the ability to deliver interventions one-to-one or with groups is essential. Knowledge of health education and health improvement procedures and techniques is desirable. Health promotion in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

In return, you'll receive 27 days' annual leave plus 8 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the NHS Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 20 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

Nursery Officer Ref: CA0438

Salary: D1 £12,592 - £16,230 per annum

Hours: 37 per week, working a shift pattern

Location: All Saints Sure Start Children's Centre

All Saints Sure Start Children's Centre Nursery is looking for a nursery officer to join its busy team. If you have an early years qualification, (minimum level 2), post qualifying experience and a passion for providing the highest quality care and education for children under 5, then we would like to hear from you.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

For an informal discussion, please contact Chris Hogbin, Early Education and Childcare Co-ordinator, on 01634 338833.

Closing date for applications, Monday 2 March 2009.

Previous applicants need not apply.

For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm or **01634 332843** 24-hour answerphone.
Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

Valuing people's differences, recognising their strengths.

Beacon Council 2005-2006 Supporting New Businesses · INVESTOR IN PEOPLE · POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195
Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Science

SUBJECT LEADER: ART/TEACHER OF ART: Maternity Cover

Required from April 2009
Main Professional Grade plus TLR 2B (£4037.00)

A well-qualified and enthusiastic Subject Leader/Teacher who will be responsible for leading and developing Art in the School ensuring good curriculum provision and monitoring and supporting the department and students. The successful candidate will also be expected to teach Art in a highly successful department. The person appointed will have the opportunity to teach up to A' Level which is very popular. The department enjoys excellent facilities and equipment and the support of a part-time technician. Applicants should be able to incorporate ICT in their teaching.

Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. There is also plenty of scope to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than **Wednesday 25th February 2009.**

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Speech Therapist to work with Children with Challenging behaviours

We require a Speech Therapist to join our multi-disciplinary pool of professionals who are able to offer Individual Psychotherapy Therapy, Counselling, Life Story Work, Anger Management and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Applicants will be accredited by BACP and/or UKCP registered and be qualified to a minimum of diploma level and knowledge of working with clients with Learning Difficulties beneficial. Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:
Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ 01843 823762
We are an equal opportunities employer

JobsforKent.co.uk The smart way to find a job in the County

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195
Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Science

TEACHER OF BIOLOGY: Maternity Cover

Required from April-December 2009
Main Professional Grade

We are looking to appoint a Scientist with an excellent degree to teach Biology in our high achieving Science Faculty. The ability to teach to A' Level is preferred. Both Triple and Double Science are offered at GCSE.

This is an excellent opportunity to develop as part of an established team with a supportive ethos.

Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004.

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This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

the University of Greenwich at Medway

PART-TIME RECEPTION AND SECURITY ASSISTANT (Ref: 01166/K3)

We are looking for an enthusiastic person to join our Drill Hall Library reception and security team. You will be part of a team who will be providing a seamless IT and library support service to students and staff of the Universities at Medway from Canterbury Christ Church, Greenwich and Kent.

Reception and security staff are responsible for the security of the Drill Hall premises when open for business, for monitoring entry and exit of authorised persons, opening and closing procedures and setting security systems. The appointed person will also carry out routine manual and clerical tasks involved in the day-to-day running of the LRC, including operating a range of equipment and running van deliveries within campus and to the remote store. Reception staff are normally the first point of contact for Library users and visitors and must have excellent communication and customer care skills. Flexibility and team work are also essential requirements.

The post is for 17.5 hours a week, shift patterns may fall as part of the opening hours plus opening up and locking down time, currently 8.00 am to 9.30 pm. You may be required to contribute to a weekend rota.

Salary pro rata to £18,027-£20,226 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 27 February 2009.

the UNIVERSITY of GREENWICH

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
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13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
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17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
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    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
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23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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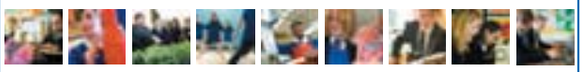


Would you would you like to train to be a teacher in a supportive environment with excellent facilities and students who want to learn?

Then you may wish to join us at Spires Academy from September 2009.

Graduate Trainee Places

We are looking to offer Graduate Trainee Places in the subject areas of:

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in our first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

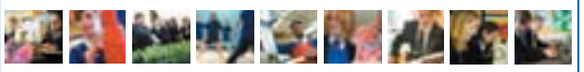
Closing date: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

Further details and an application form are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com or contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or on 01227 710392 ext 227 for an information pack.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening, including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise
and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts



Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community and a 'can do' mentality.

In appointing teaching colleagues we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas are also important.

Required for September 2009

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING – FOR ENGLISH

MPS + TLR £10,303 pa

An exciting opportunity has arisen, following internal promotion, for an outstanding teacher with strong leadership credentials to lead our English team.

We are seeking to appoint a new Director of Learning, who will lead the English team at this exciting stage in our continued growth and development. Although results last year were above the 30% threshold, we are aiming for greater things in the coming years.

TEACHER OF ENGLISH

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of English to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

You will either have QTS in English Teaching or currently be completing your GTP/ PGCE year.

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of Mathematics to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term.

Prospective candidates will either have QTS in Mathematics Teaching or currently be completing their GTP/PGCE year.

Closing date for the above posts: 12.00 noon, 27th February 2009.

Required for April 2009

COVER SUPERVISOR

Equivalent to Kent Scheme Level 5 | £16,221 – 17,842 pro rata

8.00am – 4.00pm, Mon – Fri term time + five days

Are you committed to developing learning and raising aspirations with students? If so, we want to hear from you. You will be energetic, enthusiastic and able to take charge of children's learning through the delivery of set work.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Closing date for this post: 12.00 noon, 24th February 2009.

Further details and application forms for all the above posts are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

DOVER
grammar school for boys

A BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL
Astor Avenue, Dover, Kent CT17 0DQ
Tel: 01304 206117 Fax: 01304 206074 – Headteacher: Mrs Sally Lees MA (Oxon)

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS INVITED

We wish to offer the following trainee placements on the
Graduate Teacher Programme – Required for September 2009
Science – Design Technology
Music – Religious Education

Dover Grammar School for Boys is an exciting environment in which to work. This is a school which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff and there is a well established ethos of professional development for all our staff.

We have a very successful programme of support and qualification for our GTP students which has been enhanced by the excellent links the school has with Canterbury Christchurch University.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hard working people to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post please contact the School Office, on 01304 206117, for an application form and further information.

Applications should include completed application form with supporting letter, and the names, addresses (fax numbers) of two referees.

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 24 February 2009
Interviews will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2009

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CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

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From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and wellbeing for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kents largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts, relocation package available, occupational sickness benefit, please car scheme for eligible staff, occupational health service, enhanced maternity pay, flexible working policies.

Community Matron/Continuing Care Team Support Workers (*) (🚗)

Band 3: £14,834 - £17,732 per annum
Ashford Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH336
Shepway Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH323
Canterbury Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH324
Swale Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH325
Dover/Deal Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH326
Thanet Area x 5 - Ref: 767-ASH327

We are looking to recruit 30 Continuing Care Support Workers to work across East Kent based at different locations. Are you a flexible and caring individual who is keen to enable people to be as independent as possible whilst remaining in their own homes to provide personal care or clinical interventions within a multi skilled team for patients with long term conditions and continuing care needs? If so then this post may be for you.

You will need social or healthcare experience to join an innovative community team. The willingness to work towards an NVQ is essential. You will need the confidence to work alone as well as function effectively as part of a large team.

The Continuing Care Team delivers programmes of care that may include nursing and social care tasks. You (Team members) will work unsupervised on a daily basis with an identified caseload in the client's usual place of residence, which could be their own home, or an environment appropriate to their needs. Shift work including night duty is an essential part of this role.

You will require excellent interpersonal skills to enable you to work with a range of staff from various professional backgrounds, with the ability to motivate and encourage people whilst carrying out planned care/ rehabilitation programmes set by team members. There is also an element of personal care assistance required in the post as some of those referred may be frail and dependent.

If you would like to join this friendly and committed team we would like to hear from you.

For an informal chat call Hayley Mullan on 01304 865609.

Closing date: 20 February 2009.

Health Care Technicians - Community Matron Services (*) (🚗)

Ref: 767-ASH328
Band 4: £17,316 - £20,818 per annum
Bases Ashford/Shepway/Canterbury/Swale/Dover/ Deal/Thanet

Are you a caring individual who is keen to enable people to be as independent as possible whilst remaining in their own homes or to support patients on an ongoing basis with a variety of long term conditions? If so then this post may be for you.

You will be joining an innovative community team. NVQ 3 is essential with a willingness to commit to lifelong learning. You will need the confidence to work alone as well as function effectively as part of a large team.

The team aims to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and supports patients with complex long term conditions and to provide a range of clinical interventions, care and support including assistive technology in the community.

You will require excellent interpersonal skills to enable you to work with a range of staff from various professional backgrounds, with the ability to motivate and encourage people whilst carrying out planned clinical interventions set by team members. There is also an element of personal care assistance required in the post as some of those referred may be frail and dependent.

If you would like to join this friendly and committed team we would like to hear from you.

For an informal chat call Kim Lee, 01795 421 912.

Closing date: 20 February 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau
(🚗) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit WWW.**eastcoastkentpct**.nhs.uk

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Accountancy

FINANCE OFFICER

Folkestone
Salary: £20,967 to £25,620
Closing Date: Friday 20 February 2009
Two exciting opportunities have arisen within the Accountancy team following a recent restructure. FINANCE OFFICER (General Fund team) FINANCE OFFICER (Technical team) - job share 18.5 hours per week. For more details and an application pack, download at www.shepway.gov.uk, or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.
To apply/more information:
Shepway District Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 853481
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk

FINANCE OFFICER

Folkestone
Salary: £20,967 to £25,620 (pro-rata for job-share)
Closing Date: Friday 20 February 2009
Two exciting opportunities have arisen within the Accountancy team following a recent restructure. FINANCE OFFICER (General Fund team) FINANCE OFFICER (Technical team) – job share 18.5 hours per week. For more details and an application pack, download at www.shepway.gov.uk, or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481. Closing date for completed applications is Friday 20 February 2009.
To apply/more information:
Shepway District Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 853481
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Curriculum Support Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
Within the Faculty of Business, ICT, Hospitality and Catering, Hairdressing, Beauty and Holistic Therapies, Sports, Leisure and Travel and Tourism. 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 04/118
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Curriculum Support Assistant - Engineering and Construction

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
37 or 2 x 18.5 hours per week, 40 weeks term time. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/148
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Child Care

Nursery Officer

Medway
Salary: £12,592 - £16,230 pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009
Location: All Saints Sure Start Childrens Centre All Saints Sure Start Children's Centre Nursery is looking for a nursery officer to join its busy team. If you have an early years qualification, (minimum level 2), post qualifying experience and a passion for providing the highest quality care and education for children under 5, then we would like to hear from you. Any offer of appointment will be subject to a criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure. For an informal discussion, please contact Chris Hogbin, Early Education and Childcare Co-ordinator, on 01634 338833. Closing date for applications, Monday 2 March 2009. Previous applicants need not apply. For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am - 8pm, Sat 9am - 1pm or 01634 332843 24 hour answerphone. Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: CA0438
Tel: 01634 333333
Email jobs@medway.gov.uk

Domestic

Night Cleaners

Canterbury
Salary: £6.42 per hour
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
20 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: •Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme •Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre •Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/22
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Caretaker

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £15,085 pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success. For an application pack to apply, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus/Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/07
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic and laundry staff

Dover
Salary: TBA
Senior Carers and Carers needed for both night and day shifts for care home in Dover. Domestic and laundry staff also required. For an informal discussion and more information please call Heather Viggers on 07534965270 or our Head Office on 01322 385033. Alternatively email heather@charinghealthcare.co.uk for details.
To apply/more information:
Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 385033
Email heather@charinghealthcare.co.uk

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Lecturer Administration to Level 3 and Cross College Key Skills

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
18.5 hours per week Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success. For an application pack to apply, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme •Proximity to Main Bus/Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/73
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Enviromental Studies

Canterbury
Salary: £33,858 PA
Closing Date: 16 February 2009
Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/04
Tel: 01227 811282
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Temporary Lecturer Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
Temporary post to cover maternity leave not exceeding 12 months. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/42
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Hairdressing

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
9.25 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent.Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/05
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer ICT

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
37 hours or 2x 18.5 hours per week. Salary pro rata for part time posts. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/06
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills (to building Services students)

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 to £26,363 Pro Rata
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
18.5 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/175
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students)

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/30
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Business Partnership Manager

Canterbury
Salary: £27,073 PA
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/45
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Supply NVQ Assessors - Early Years

Canterbury
Salary: £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/NVQ/EY
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Supply NVQ Assessors - Play Work

Canterbury
Salary: £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/NVQ/PW
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

GRADUATES for Graduate Teachers' Programme

Dover
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 6 March
Required for September 2009 GRADUATES to achieve qualified teacher status through the one year Graduate Teachers' Programme teaching Mathematics, Science, Leisure & Tourism, & MFL (French, Spanish, Italian: any combination) to GCSE and/or A Level Apply in writing, enclosing a C.V. to Mr C. J. Atkin (Headteacher) Tel: 01304 201551 Fax: 01304 202226 Email: office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk An enhanced CRB disclosure check will be required. Interviews: Tuesday 17th March.
To apply/more information:
Mr C. J. Atkin
St Edmund's Catholic School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 201551
Email office@st-edmunds-dover.kent.sch.uk

Graduate Teacher Programme

Gravesend
Salary: £15,113
Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher via the GTP route, which currently pays £15,113 during training? St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University, is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2009 in Art Design and Technology Music Mathematics Science Further details, including an application form, are available from the School's website, www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk or from Mike O'Shea, e-mail: moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk. The closing date for applications is Friday, 27 March.
To apply/more information:
Mike O'Shea
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Assessor/Reviewing Officer

Medway
Salary: £19,736 -£25,441 pro-rata
Closing Date: Friday 20 February 2009
We are looking to appoint qualified and experienced Assessor/Reviewing Officer's for Engineering, Fabrication and Welding or Plumbing and Heating. The successful candidates will be highly motivated and able to assess trainees on NVQ qualifications including, 'Train to Gain' learners within our successful Engineering and Plumbing department's. A relevant qualification is essential and the successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards Assessor/Verifier and H&S qualifications. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0586
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Graduate Trainee Places - Mathematics and Science

Ashford
Salary: TBA

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Closing Date: 27 February 2009 at 12 Noon

Would you like to train to be a teacher in a supportive environment with excellent facilities and students who want to learn? Then you may wish to join us at Spires Academy from September 2009. We are looking to offer Graduate Trainee Places in the subject areas of: Mathematics and Science Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in our first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality. Further details and an application form are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com or contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or on 01227 710392 ext 227 for an information pack.

To apply/more information:
Marion Wigington
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Director of Learning - For English

Canterbury
Salary: MPS + TLR £10,303 pa

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths from 18% and 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community and a 'can do' mentality. In appointing teaching colleagues we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas are also important. An exciting opportunity has arisen, following internal promotion, for an outstanding teacher with strong leadership credentials to lead our English team. We are seeking to appoint a new Director of Learning, who will lead the English team at this exciting stage in our continued growth and development. Although results last year were above the 30% threshold, we are aiming for greater things in the coming years. Further details and applications forms for all posts are available at our website www.spiresacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Teacher of English

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 24th February 2009 at 12 Noon

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths from 18% and 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community and a 'can do' mentality. In appointing teaching colleagues we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas are also important. We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of English to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term. You will either have QTS in English Teaching or currently be completing your GTP / PGCE year. Further details and applications forms for all posts are available at our website www.spiresacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Teacher of Mathematics

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 24th February 2009 at 12 Noon

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths from 18% and 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community and a 'can do' mentality. In appointing teaching colleagues we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas are also important. We are seeking to appoint a Teacher of Mathematics to join the Academy for the 2009/2010 academic year. You could start from 1st September 2009, but we are happy to make the appointment from 1st July to facilitate planning and preparation time for the new term. Prospective candidates will either have QTS in Mathematics Teaching or currently be completing your GTP / PGCE year. Further details and applications forms for all posts are available at our website www.spiresacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Cover Supervisor

Canterbury
Salary: £16,221 - £17,842 pro rata
Closing Date: 24th February 2009 at 12 Noon

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths from 18% and 32%. Student numbers in Year 7 have doubled and admission applications continue to grow. There is a real sense of optimism in our community and a 'can do' mentality. 8am - 4pm, Monday - Friday term time + five days Are you committed to developing learning and raising aspirations with students? If so, we want to hear from you. You will be energetic, enthusiastic and be able to take charge of children's learning through the delivery of set work. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills. Further details and applications forms for all posts are available at our website www.spiresacademy.com or alternatively contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392 ext 227.

To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392 ext 227
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

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TEACHER OF BIOLOGY

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Wednesday 25 February 2009

We are looking to appoint a Scientist with an excellent degree to teach Biology in our high achieving Science Faculty. The ability to teach to A' Level is preferred. Both Triple and Double Science are offered at GCSE. This is an excellent opportunity to develop as part of an established team with a supportive ethos. Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004. The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. There is also plenty of scope to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than Wednesday 25th February 2009. Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.ggsg.org.uk email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

To apply/more information:
Mrs M Tong Ralphs
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

SUBJECT LEADER: ART/TEACHER OF ART

Gravesend
Salary: Main Professional Grade plus TLR 2B (£4037.00)
Closing Date: Wednesday 25 February 2009

Maternity Cover Required from April 2009 Main Professional Grade plus TLR 2B (£4037.00) A well-qualified and enthusiastic Subject Leader/ Teacher who will be responsible for leading and developing Art in the School ensuring good curriculum provision and monitoring and supporting the department and students. The successful candidate will also be expected to teach Art in a highly successful department. The person appointed will have the opportunity to teach up to A' Level which is very popular. The department enjoys excellent facilities and equipment and the support of a part-time technician. Applicants should be able to incorporate ICT in their teaching. Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004. The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. There is also plenty of scope to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than Wednesday 25th February 2009. Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.ggsg.org.uk email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

To apply/more information:
Mrs M Tong Ralphs
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Section Manager Cleaning/Security/ Public Services/ Health and Safety/ Environmental Health

Canterbury
Salary: £33,858 PA
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at Noon

37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme •Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/122
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Coordinator Animal Care and Land Based Studies

Canterbury
Salary: £27,209 pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/156
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Beauty and Holistic Therapies

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

27.75 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/142
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Key Skills - Media

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym •G enerous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/67
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Public Services

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/145
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Public Services

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA (pro rata for part time posts)
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

37 hours or 2 x 18x5 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/59
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Health and Social Care

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 to £26,363 Pro Rata
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

18.5 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

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Tel: 01227 811282
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Lecturer Mechanical Engineering

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 to £26,363 Pro Rata
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

18.5 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/92
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply NVQ Assessors

Canterbury
Salary: £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

Various hours available. For: Business Administration Customer Services Team Leading Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance •Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/NVQ/ASS
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Automotive Engineering

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/67
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Fabrication and Welding

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon

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37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: TD3
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Trainer Demonstrator - Stage Lighting and Scenic Construction Crafts

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/TD
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Trainer Demonstrator Mechanical

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn.Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/TD/MEC
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Director of Development

Medway
Salary: Circa £50,000 PA
Closing Date: Friday 27 February 2009
The Kent Association of FE Corporations (KAFEC) is an innovative partnership of the seven FE colleges based in Kent & Medway. Formally established in 1994 its main purpose is to raise the profile and reputation of FE in Kent & Medway while continually driving up the quality of FE provision. Through collaborative working, mutual support and the sharing of best pracrice, KAFEC aims to influence the development of education and training for the benefit of all learners. We are seeking to appoint a Director of Development to drive forward the implementation of our Key Strategic Priorities. The successful applicant will be both innovative and strategic in their thinking with a proven track record of working with partnerships and managing the successful delivery of externally funded projects. Postive and pro-active in response to the volume and complexity of your work you will have excellent communication skills, the ability to negotiate bids and contracts and must be extremely self-motivated. The Chair of KAFEC is held by one of the seven colleges, for a fixed term of three years. The current Chair is Prinicipal of MidKent College and the post holder will be based at MidKent College, until 31st July 2010. Thereafter, the post holder may be based at any one of the seven KAFEC colleges in Kent and Medway. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure and List 99 clearance. For an informal discussion about this post please contact the Chair of KAFEC, Stephen Grix on 01634 884387, alternatively by email: stephen.grix@midkent.ac.uk To apply email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk or Telephone: 01634 884511 For further information about KAFEC visit www.kafec.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01634 884511
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

New Product Introductions Manager

Folkestone
Salary: Up to 27K pro rata
Closing Date: None
We have an immediate requirement for a New Product Introductions Manager to cover maternity leave starting on 1st March 2009. This position is very much akin to a project management opportunity and will involve considerable amounts of interdepartmental liaison (ie. with suppliers, marketing, sales, supply chain etc). The ability to motivate others, get things done and make things happen is equally important. The job holder will be involved with presentations, understand issues and provide data, dealing with any problems as they arrive, working with deadlines and finding alternative solutions when required and of course prioritising your workload. CV's are urgently invited. Email: heather@rsfl.co.uk Tel: 01303 220844 Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd is an equal opportunities employer and recruitment business.
To apply/more information:
Heather Morgan
Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: HM6478
Tel: 01303 220844
Email heather@rsfl.co.uk

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Graduate, Trainees

GRADUATE TEACHER

Dover
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Tuesday 24 February 2009
Graduate Teacher Programme Required for September 2009 Science Design Technology Music Religious Education Dover Grammar School for Boys is an exciting environment in which to work. This is a school which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff and there is a well established ethos of professional development for all our staff. We have a very successful programme of support and qualification for our GTP students which has been enhanced by the excellent links the school has with Canterbury Christchurch University. We are looking for enthusiastic, hard working people to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post please contact the School Office, on 01304 206117, for an application form and further information. Applications should include completed application form with supporting letter, and the names, addresses (fax numbers) of two referees. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 24 February 2009 Interviews will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2009
To apply/more information:
Dover Grammar School for Boys
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 206117
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

Enviromental Health Officer

Kent
Salary: £27,612 - £34,092 pro rata
Closing Date: 22 February 2009
Flexible Working Hours up to 18.5 hours per week Swale Borough Council is seeking a suitably qualified Environmental Health Officer who will be committed to making a real improvement in the quality of life of those working in a vibrant area of North Kent. The post would suit someone wishing to work part-time, the exact hours and days being negotiable. Situated in the Commercial Team, the post covers food safety, health and safety at work, communicable disease and private water supplies, although the main emphasis will be on health and safety at work and enforcement of legislation in food premises. You will have the benefit of working with experienced officers who hold flexible warrants for partnership working with HSE and other Kent local authorities. You must have a degree or diploma in Environmental Health, preferably qualified and competent to inspect Approved food premises and high-risk premises for health and safety. In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, payment of professional fees and the Local Government final salary pension scheme. For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone 01795 417414 (24 hour voice mail) Website www.jobs.swale.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Technician to Support Applications (standard)

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pa
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
37 hours per week Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: ATS
Tel: 01227 811282

M and E Lead Engineer

Ramsgate
Salary: £33,000 - £38,000 PA
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009
Lead Engineer required to develop, implement and act upon a PPM Programme for two educational establishments in Ramsgate and Folkestone with the potential to support additional sites in the future. You will be an experienced all-round Electrical engineer, in a hands-on role. This is an amazing opportunity for a talented and ambious professional. 25 days paid holiday 40 hour work week split between sites. Additional specifiaction will be sent on request. Please email us for more details.
To apply/more information:
Marlowe Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email carolineo'connor@marloweacademy.co.uk

Management, Senior Positions

Group Equality, Diversity and Community Engagement Manager

Maidstone
Salary: £31,370 - £38,812
Closing Date: 20 February 2009
Are you happy just sitting in the corner ticking the diversity box, or would you rather drive positive change at the heart of an organisation that affects the safety, security and well-being of each and every citizen in England and Wales? The CPS is not only responsible for the prosecution of crime, we also play an increasingly important role across the whole Criminal Justice System, with partner agencies and championing the rights of victims. With sensitive and serious crimes, such as hate crime and violence against women having a direct impact on all communities, there's never been a more important time for us to know the people we serve and ensure that they gain a better understanding of how we work and make descisions. You'll build their confidence and trust by putting equality and diversity right at the heart of everything we do and assuring people from all communities that we will be their champions for justice. You'll achieve this by inviting their feedback and opening up the Service to scrutiny, enabling communities to inform how we work, as well as developing and delivering regional agendas and transforming internal practices to create a truly world-class service. To have the impact that we want you to have, you'll need experience of driving equality and engagement agendas in a complex public or voluntary sector environment. A tactful, diplomatic approach and superb communication skills will be essential. Regular travel will be involved. If you're looking for a real challenge and involvement, the work you do here will have a direct impact on our success both now and in the future. For more details, and to apply online, please visit www.cps.gov.uk/careers and look in the 'Professional Careers' section. For a confidential discussion about this position, please call Libby Davies, Recruitment Consultant at the CPS, on 0151 2396573.
To apply/more information:
Crown Prosecution Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0151 2396573
Email www.cps.gov.uk/careers

Motor Trade, Driver

Service/General Manager

Hythe
Salary: £35,000 per annum
Service/General Manager required to replace retiring Dealer Principal. The ideal person should be conversant with the service and repair of motor vehicles and be able to maintain high standards of repair, communicate with customers, suppliers and staff. This position commands a starting salary of £35,000 per annum with fringe benefits Please contact: Mr Musson - Tel: 01303 264700.
To apply/more information:
Mr Musson
B & D Specialist Cars
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 264700
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Health Support Workers (primarys care and Primary Meantal Health Care)

Medway
Salary: £17,316 - £20,818 PA
Closing Date: 20 February 2009
+ Environment Allowance of £952 PA and additional allowance for rostered weekend working With a relevant qualification preferably to diploma level or NVQ3/4 or equivalent or relevant qualifiying experience in health, health education, or social care service delivery you will have a proven record and work well in partnership with other professionals. You must have good basic educatonal skills and the ability to deliver interventions one-to-one or with groups is essential. Knowledge of health education and health improvement procedures and techniques is desirable. Health promotion in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future. In retun, you'll receive 27 days' annual leave plus 8 public and priviledge holidays per annum and entry into the NHS Pension by invitation. To apply for this post please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk. Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.
To apply/more information:
HM Prison Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

Carers x 2

Canterbury
Salary: £7.00 per hour
Canterbury area 2 female Carers wanted Must have care experience and own transport Salary£7.00hr full/part-time hrs Contact MS Care Ltd 01843 280999.
To apply/more information:
MS Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 280999
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Speech Therapist

Margate
Salary: TBA
Speech Therapist to work with Children with Challenging behaviours. We require a Speech Therapist to join our multi-disciplinary pool of professionals who are able to offer Individual Psychotherapy Therapy, Counselling, Life Story Work, Anger Management and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Applicants will be accredited by BACP and/or UKCP registered and be qualified to a minimum of diploma level and knowledge of working with clients with Learning Difficulties beneficial. Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form: Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ 01843 823762 We are an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Ethelbert Children's Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 823762
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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Caring for Carers

Kent
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 23rd February 2009
You could make a difference to peoples lives Are you looking for a job where you know your work is really valued? If the answer is yes then you had better give Crossroads South East Kent a call, because that's what we do every day and we may have just the job for you. Crossroads South East Kent is a Registered Charity that enables people who are looking after someone at home, in need of constant care, with some much needed and much deserved regular time off. We need enthusiastic and caring people to help us to offer our service to more Carers living in the Ashford, Folkestone and Dover area We would offer you all the training you need to provide a quality service to families, offering you real job satisfaction, interesting and varied work, plus ongoing support. Crossroads South East Kent offers genuinely competitive rates of pay, flexible working hours and excellent terms and conditions. Want to know more? Then give our Office a call On 01233 663198 Email crossroads@southeastkent.freeserve.co.uk You will need to hold a full driving licence and have regular access to a reliable car. CUT OFF DATE for completed applications is Monday 23rd February 2009 Please note these vacancies are subject to an enhanced police check. Crossroads South East Kent is committed to equal opportunities across its range of activities.
To apply/more information:
Crossroads South East Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 663198
Email crossroads@southeastkent.freeserve.co.uk

Parent Carers Support Services Officer

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: 18,250 Full-time or pro-rata to part-time hours
Closing Date: 18th February 2009
This is your opportunity to Promote, Support and Empower Carers of all ages and to become an integral part of an expanding, independent charity that has a well established solid foundation and which is held in high regard within the local community, voluntary and statutory sectors of Swale and beyond. In partnership with East Kent Coastal PCT, we seek 2 innovative, enterprising people with a proven passion for developing and delivering Support Services to Vulnerable People and with an empathy and understanding of the needs, rights and issues facing Family Carers. Working as part of our exemplary Family Support Services Team and reporting to the Chief Operations Officer, you will be responsible for the successful development, facilitation and delivery of this essential new initiative to provide advice, advocacy, information, emotional support and respite activities to those families with children and young people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance residing primarily within the Swale District of Kent. Salary: £18,250 Full-time, or pro-rata to part-time hours + Essential Car Users Allowance + Optional Pension Contributions Hours: 1 x 37 Hrs Per Week. 1 x 22.5 Hrs Per Week. All hours to be worked flexibly to accommodate the needs of the service and will include some evening and weekend working Contract: Initially 1 year, thereafter subject to funding For further details and application pack, please contact Mrs S Hornby, Chief Operations Officer 01795 583440 email sandie. swalecarers@tiscali.co.uk Interviews: 23rd February 2009 Start Date: 30th March 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs S Hornby
Swale Carers Centre
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 583440
Email sandie.swalecarers@tiscali.co.uk

YISP Project Worker x 2

Tonbridge
Salary: £18,288
Closing Date: Midday, Monday 18 February 2009
2 x 37 hours per week. 1 x funded until December 2009 - CFE/09/0043 1 x Funded until April 2010 with possibility of extension - CFE/09/004 Based at Adolescent Resource Centre, Tonbridge The Tunbride Wells and Tonbridge & Malling District multi agency Youth Offending Prevention Project are seeking to recruit candidates with a real interest in working with young people who are at risk of offending. You will need excellent organisational and communication skills, be self motivated with the ability to engage with adolescents, parents/carers and a wide range of partner agencies. Assessment skills, case management and good interpersonnel skills are pertinent to this post as is previous experience of working directly with disaffected young people and/or those at risk of

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offending. This post could involve evening and weekend working. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively please email or call 0845 8247904. Please quote the appropriate reference number.
To apply/more information: Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: CFE/09/0043 + CFE/09/004
Tel: 0845 8247904
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Night Carer

Dover
Salary: TBA
For 2 nights (Tues and Fri) 8pm - 8am NVQ2 preferred Please contact Mandy Tel: 01304 823935.
To apply/more information: Mandy
Riverlea House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 823935
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Carers

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Carer's required for Day shift or Night shift, Full time and Part time, experienced or willing to learn. Working with Elderly people in a Dementia care setting the essential requirement for this job is your ability to provide; warmth, security, love and respect to those who depend upon you. Please call Belinda on 01622 737847 for further information and the opportunity to meet us.
To apply/more information: Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 737847
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Senior Carers

Dover
Salary: TBA
Senior Carers and Carers needed for both night and day shifts for care home in Dover. Domestic and laundry staff also required. For an informal discussion and more information please call Heather Viggers on 07534965270 or our Head Office on 01322 385033. Alternatively email heather@charinghealthcare.co.uk for details.
To apply/more information: Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 385033
Email heather@charinghealthcare.co.uk

Carer

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Cumbria House Care Home Has the following vacancies 1 x f/t carer 1 x p/t carer NVQ level 2 preferred and experience in care preferred Please contact Julia Carter on 01303 254019 Both posts are subject to CRB disclosure.
To apply/more information: Julia Carter
Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Care Worker

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To assist service users living in their own homes in Herne Bay, Canterbury & Whitstable areas. Full time to include mornings, evenings and alternate weekends. Part time evenings and weekends. Experience not essential as full training supplied. Mileage allowance paid. Car & mobile phone essential. Phone 01227 711011 Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm only www.scottcare.co.uk
To apply/more information: Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 711011
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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Team Leader

Medway
Salary: TBA
To lead a team of care workers in the Herne Bay and/or Medway areas. Duties will include care planning, assessments, supervisions, spot checks etc. Participation on the On Call Rota 1 week in 5. Experience preferred but might suit an experienced carer wishing to further their career. Car & mobile phone essential. Phone 01227 711011 Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm only www.scottcare.co.uk
To apply/more information: Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 711011
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Diversity Worker

Gravesend
Salary: £21,244 - £27,492 pro rata
Closing Date: 27 February 2009
Maternity Cover 9 Months. Fluent in Punjabi. 22.2 Hours per week Plus up to £1,095 pro rata essential car user allowance KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. We require a highly motivated and proactive individual to cover maternity leave for the Diversity project. The aim of the role is to offer a community based service by providing advice/information and support to members of local Asian communities who are concerned about their own or someone else's alcohol/drug use. The ability to work on your own initiative is essential although sufficient support will be provided. Although a relevant professional qualification would be desirable, good communication and interaction skills are essential, as is fluency in Punjabi. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies or email us. Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote the reference.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 551
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Branch Manager

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
The UK's trendiest Branded Fashion footwear retailer are looking for new staff. Managers will need retail experience in supervising stafdf, driving sales, customer service and visual merchandising. Full training given and competitive salary. So do you have a personality that would enjoy our environment of high fashion footwear and accessories all to the sound of cool tunes....? Email your CV to tony@treds.co.uk "Subject: CT Recruitment" or post to tReds Recruitment, 48 Lynch Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9DN. Alternatively you may pop into store from 23rd Feb. Application by cover letter plus CV only. www.tReds.co.uk
To apply/more information: tReds
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email tony@treds.co.uk

Assistant Manager

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
The UK's trendiest Branded Fashion footwear retailer are looking for new staff. Managers will need retail experience in supervising stafdf, driving sales, customer service and visual merchandising. Full training given and competitive salary. So do you have a personality that would enjoy our environment of high fashion footwear and accessories all to the sound of cool tunes....? Email your CV to tony@treds.co.uk "Subject: CT Recruitment" or post to tReds Recruitment, 48 Lynch Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9DN. Alternatively you may pop into store from 23rd Feb. Application by cover letter plus CV only. www.tReds.co.uk
To apply/more information: tReds
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email tony@treds.co.uk

Sales Assistants

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
The UK's trendiest Branded Fashion footwear retailer are looking for new staff. Managers will need retail experience in supervising stafdf, driving sales, customer service and visual merchandising. Full training given and competitive salary. So do you have a personality that would enjoy our environment of high fashion footwear and accessories all to the sound of cool tunes....? Email your CV to tony@treds.co.uk "Subject: CT Recruitment" or post to tReds Recruitment, 48 Lynch Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9DN. Alternatively you may pop into store from 23rd Feb. Application by cover letter plus CV only. www.tReds.co.uk
To apply/more information: tReds
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email tony@treds.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

PAUL BOWEN LIMITED
Company Number 04163092
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH on Thursday 26th February 2009 at 2.30 pm for the purpose provided for in Section 98 et seq. of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Ian Yerrill, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH will, during the period before the date of the Meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they reasonably require.
Dated: 29th January 2009
Paul Bowen, Director

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1303 817040

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The Insolvency Act 1986
PARKER TIMBER COMPANY LIMITED
Company Number 01866270
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Smith & Williamson Limited, First Floor, 89 King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1BG, on 23 February 2009, at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account and (unless attending in person) a proxy with the company at the offices of Smith & Williamson Limited, at the above address, no later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the Meeting of Creditors. Secured Creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security, the date when it was given, and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.
Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms upon which the Joint Liquidators are to be remunerated and the creditors may receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and the costs of convening the Meeting of Creditors.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the above address, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days prior to the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated: 10 February 2009
By Order of the Board
Clive Anthony Wheatley, Director

COPPOCK CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
Company Number 05800841
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, on 24 February 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above Meeting must be lodged, accompanied by statements of claim, at the registered office of the Company situated at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the Meeting.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Nedim Ailyan and Andrew Tate, of Abbott Fielding, Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated: 6 February 2009
By Order of the Board
Christian Coppock, Chairman

The Insolvency Act 1986
RIVERSIDE GRAPHICS LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
We, Matthew John Waghorn and David William Tann, of Nortons Recovery Limited, Highlands House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1NT, hereby give notice that on 6 February 2009, we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above-named Company.
Notice is hereby given that the Creditors are required, on or before 13 March 2009 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, and, if so required by notice in writing from me, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 6 February 2009
M J Waghorn, Joint Liquidator

PORTMAN DESIGNS LIMITED
Company Number 01732689
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Express by Holiday Inn, A2 Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, CT2 9HX on 25 February 2009 at 12.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 - 101 of the said Act. Creditors should lodge particulars of their claims for voting purposes before the meeting at Findlay James, Saxon House, Saxon Way, Cheltenham GL52 6QX not later than 12.00 noon on 24 February 2009. Secured creditors should also lodge a statement giving details of their security, the date(s) on which it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
The resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated, and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. An explanatory note is available.
A J Findlay of Findlay James, Saxon House, Saxon Way, Cheltenham GL52 6QX will, during the period before the meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the affairs of the company as they may reasonably require.
Dated 9 February 2009
S Portman, Director

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/00030/FL & TM/09/00031/LB – Hedgehogs St Vincents Lane Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5BW – Mr Colin Reader is applying for two storey rear extension consisting of a garden room and two additional bedrooms and bathroom at first floor. Reason: LB

TM/09/00084/FL – 137 St Leonards Street West Malling Kent ME19 6PE – Mr And Mrs Paul Pope are applying for demolition of existing detached garage and construction of an attached garage and study, with bedroom accommodation on first floor (resubmission TM08/01959/FL). Reason: CA

TM/09/00008/FL & TM/09/00009/LB – Court Farm 100 High Street Aylesford Kent ME20 7AZ – Mr Terry Boyle is applying for Conversion including alterations and extensions to 2 no. outbuildings to form holiday let/annex and holiday let. Reason: CA LB

TM/09/00090/FL – 1 Knox Cottages Kiln Barn Road Ditton Aylesford Kent ME19 6BG

– Mr Paul Whittlesea is applying for front porch extension. Reason: PROW

TM/08/03735/FL – Fir Cottage Ismays Road Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9BD

– Mr James Barty is applying for new chimney stack. Reason: CA

TM/09/00160/FL – Court Lodge Plaxdale Green Road Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7PG – Mr And Mrs Harry Bott are applying for retrospective application for partial change of use of barn for events and functions in addition to continued use as ancillary residential amenity and agricultural/farm storage. Reason: CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
PROW Application affects a Public Right of Way

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 8 March 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

15 February 2009

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Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Hatch Lane, Chartham) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT works to renew poles and cables, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hatch Lane, Chartham, from outside the disused quarry (approximately 50 metres south of the level crossing), to the junction with New Town Street, on or after 2 March 2009, for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. It is anticipated that the works will be carried out between the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A28 Ashford Road, Howfield Lane and Town Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Herne Bay Road, Swalecliffe) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway resurfacing works, the Kent County Council had made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Herne Bay Road, Swalecliffe between the junctions of Kemp Road and Brook Road, on or after 16 February 2009, for up to three nights, or until such works are complete. Burnan Road, Kemp Road, Brook Road and Marine Crescent will also be closed at their junctions with Herne Bay Road.

The work is planned to be carried out overnight between the hours of 7.00 pm and 7.00 am with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route for through traffic (excluding vehicles over 4 metres tall) is via, Chestfield Road, A2990 Thanet Way, Borstal Hill, Canterbury Road, Oxford Street, High Street, Horsebridge Road, Sea Street, Harbour Street, Tower Parade, Tankerton Road and Bennells Avenue/St Swithin's Road.

Vehicles over 4 metres tall should use the above route plus St. Johns Road, Colewood Road, Whitstable Road, Sea Street, Greenhill Bridge Road and A2990 Thanet Way.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(various roads, Canterbury) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Canterbury from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 16 February 2009 for an estimated period of ten weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order.

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
St Margarets Street, Canterbury	High Street to Hawks Lane	High Street, St Peters Street, St Peters Place, Rheims Way, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town and Watling Street
Hawks Lane, Canterbury	Jct St Margarets Street	Stour Street and Beer Cart Lane
Hawks Lane, Canterbury	The City of Canterbury (Traffic Regulation) (Hawks Lane) (One Way) Order 1968 is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order	
St Margarets Street, Canterbury	The City of Canterbury (Traffic Regulation) Order 1937 in respect of St Margarets Street is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order	

This order will come into force on Monday 16 February 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTHFLEET ROAD, BETSHAM ROAD, HIGHCROSS ROAD WHITEHILL ROAD & SANDBANKS HILL, BEAN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Southfleet Road, Bean from its junction with School Lane and Betsham Road, Highcross Road and Sandbanks Hill, Bean for their entire lengths. This Order will also suspend the 6'6" width restriction on Whitehill Road for the duration of the works.

The Order will become effective on 2nd March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via:

Southfleet Road/ Highcross Road: From A2/B255 junction, A296 Princes Road, Gore Road, Green Street Green Road, Main Road, Whitehill Road.

Betsham Road/Sandbanks Hill: From Betsham Road junction, Park Corner Road, Station Road, Westwood Road, Station Road, Dale Road, Hook Green Road.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate high friction surfacing to be applied to the carriageway.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
POWDER MILL LANE, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Powder Mill Lane, Dartford for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 2nd March 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 1 Sunday. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Lowfield Street and Princes Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the access to a BT roadway box.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BURLINGS LANE, KNOCKHOLT (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Burlings Lane, Knockholt for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 16th February 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Shelleys Lane and Main Road.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement of BT poles.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Munsgore Lane, Borden) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT works to renew a faulty cable, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Munsgore Lane, Borden, between the junction of School Lane and the junction of Oad Street, on or after 2 March 2009, for an estimated period of two days or until such works are complete. It is proposed that the work will be carried out between the hours of 9.30am and 3.30pm with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via School Lane, Pond Farm Road, Oad Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Horn Hill, Milstead) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because BT are carrying out cable replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Horn Hill, Milstead from the junction with Frinstead Road to the junction with Bottom Pond Road, on or after 2 March 2009, for an estimated period of four days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Frinstead Road, Bottom Pond Road, Cherry Hill and Rawling Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(North Lane, Faversham) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of heavy equipment using a mobile crane, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Lane, Faversham between the junctions of Partridge Lane and Bridge Road, from 8.00 pm on Saturday 21 February 2009 until 5.00 am on Monday 23 February 2009.

The alternative route for through traffic will be (a) for vehicles up to 13 feet 9 inches high, via Conduit Street, Quay Lane, Court Street, Crescent Road, Newton Road, Station Road, Forbes Road, The Mall, A2 London Road, Ospringe Road and South Road and (b) for vehicles over 13 feet 9 inches high via Conduit Street, Quay Lane, Court Street, Crescent Road, East Street, Whitstable Road, Love Lane, A2 Canterbury Road, A2 London Road, A2 Ospringe Road, Western Link, Bysing Wood Road, Dark Hill, West Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Warden Road, Eastchurch) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the provision of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Warden Road, Eastchurch, from the junction with Plough Road to the junction with High Street, on or after 16 February 2009, for an estimated period of one week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via High Street, Lower Road, Eastchurch Road, Chequers Road, Plough Road, Warden Road.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(St Lukes Avenue, Ramsgate) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on St Lukes Avenue, Ramsgate from St Lukes Avenue at its junction with A254 Margate Road on or after 2 March 2009 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via College Road & Holly Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Vicarage Street, Church Street and High Street, St Peters, Broadstairs) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Vicarage Street, Church Street and High Street, St Peters, Broadstairs from outside number 3 Vicarage Street to outside number 2 Church Street and High Street, St Peters at it's junction with Vicarage Street and Church Street on or after 16 February 2009 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A255 Broadstairs Road, A255 St Peters Road, A255 The Broadway, B2053 St Peters Park Road and B2053 Albion Road. Access to High Street via A255 Broadstairs Road and Green Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Ebbsfleet Lane MINSTER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Network Rail track maintenance works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Ebbsfleet Lane Minster from 30 metres each side of the level crossing on or after 22 February 2009 for an estimated period of 01:00am Sunday 22 February to 04:00am Monday 23 February 2009 or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Thorne Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West and A256 Sandwich Road.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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New Alto pitched into tough market

By **STEVE LOADER**

DOWNSIZING and the drive for greener and cheaper motoring is turning the small car market into a battleground.

It is also playing into the hands of carmakers that have tended to specialise in smaller models, such as Fiat, Daihatsu – bringing out a new Charade city car soon – and Suzuki, which launches an all-new Alto on March 1.

The latest Alto will need to be good though, as its predecessor was fairly crude and was dropped from the UK line-up some two years ago – perhaps the Japanese marque hopes buyers won't think too far back.

The newcomer's seemingly impossible brief is to be dynamically better and higher quality while aggressively priced from £6,795.

The new five-door will be pitched against the ageing Perodua Kelisa and Chevrolet Matiz as well as the rather more formidable Kia Picanto, Fiat Panda, Hyundai i10 and joint venture Toyota Aygo/Citroën C1/Peugeot 107. A Nissan clone of itself, the Pixo, is due soon too.

FINISHED: Suzuki's new Alto needs to be an improvement on the version dropped in 2006

Suzuki has kept prices low by building it in India, a factor that may prejudice the car in the eyes of consumers who recall the Indian-built City Rover – a nail of a car, driven most firmly into the coffin of the late Rover group.

However, recent Suzuki successes like the impressive Swift supermini and Splash mini-MPV suggest the Alto should hit the mark on quality versus price and not jeopardise the Japanese brand's hard-fought revival of recent years.

The production line is at the long-established Maruti Suzuki plant and early reports on the car suggest that quality will not be an issue in the context of the budget end of the UK market.

However, the car has not put down any markers on the economy/emissions front: the three-cylinder 67bhp 1.0-litre petrol engine produces just 103 g/km of CO_2 – low, but not low enough to exempt the car from £35/year road tax.

One Kent dealer is celebrating the Alto's debut in style though with a charity drive to the Suzuki factory in Hungary, where the marque's Swift supermini is produced.

The team from Tunbridge Wells Suzuki aims to leave children's hospice Demelza House in Sittingbourne and travel 2,164 miles to Hungary and back in 36 hours in a bid to raise £10,000 for the charity.

Organisers are looking for company sponsors in return for featuring their logo on the marathon motor: contact Jon Sawyers and Dean Stoner at Tunbridge Wells Suzuki 01892 520026.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Focus on more power with revived RS badge

IT is six years since Ford last used the prestigious RS performance car badge – for the MkI Focus RS.

Belatedly, the car giant has created an ultimate second generation Focus sporting model, hopefully adding further lustre to the 40-year RS legend.

The team's target was a hot hatch with poise, power, performance and precision yet offering value for money.

The heart of the new RS is a 305PS (300 bhp) version of the five-cylinder 2.5-litre Duratec engine already pushing out 225PS in the erstwhile Focus performance champ, the ST.

But while extra power was a priority – achieved mainly by a turbocharger upgrade – the team wanted to avoid the extremes of its predecessor, creating a performance car that can also deliver everyday comforts – an argument we have advanced here in many hot hatch reviews.

The RS can hit 62mph in 5.9 seconds and reach 163mph and should embarrass many cars twice its price when it goes on sale in March for under £25,000.

Classy Fiat tax-beater to tempt company drivers

OVERSHADOWED by the Fiat 500, the Bravo has nevertheless given the Italian car group its first credible family hatch/Ford Focus class contender for several generations.

Backed by a five-year/unlimited mileage warranty to reassure against old-style Fiat reliability worries, it has also gained a new version to delight company car drivers with more power and performance, while maintaining impressive fuel economy and low tax bills.

It uses a new 165bhp 2.0-litre 16v MultiJet diesel, replacing the current 1.9 MultiJet and meeting stringent Euro V emissions standard; CO2 output is just 139g/km, resulting in low 18 per cent Benefit in Kind tax bills for company 'user choosers'. It will still reach 62mph in 8.2 seconds and max out at 134mph, while returning 53.2mpg on the combined cycle.

The Bravo 2.0 MultiJet 16v is available from £16,855 and complemented in the range by the Bravo 1.6-litre MultiJet Active ECO model, from £14,450 – CO2 119g/km and 62.7mpg (combined cycle).

New Citroën Picasso makes good viewing

CITROEN underpins the successful Picasso MPV sub-brand on April 9 with the launch of an eye-catching replacement for the blobby Xsara Picasso. As usual with the French marque, the C3 Picasso will be affordable from just £11,495, but the newcomer is also handsome for a small MPV class where it will be up against rather more anonymous rivals such as the Vauxhall Meriva.

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by STEVELOADER

Porsche packs more to combat downturn

SPORTING brand icon Porsche is facing up to the recession with a raft of new model developments.

They include a major makeover for junior sister models the Boxster roadster and Cayman Coupé, the long-awaited diesel Cayenne – a much-needed 'recession-beating' version of the sporting 4x4/SUV – and the four-door Panamera.

We wait until the summer for the Panamera and to see how much the global slump is hitting the sort of customer who can afford a 'four-up' GT expected to cost £80,000-100,000.

The revised Boxster/Cayman is officially out next weekend, though the Porsche Centre for Kent at Tonbridge is running ride 'n' drives this weekend and doing the same for the diesel Cayenne next weekend – the latter is being flagged as "Same spirit, different feel".

Centre general sales manager Steve Lay told Driving: "No motor brand can escape the recession so we are taking the brand on the road over the next few weeks. We've got plenty to say about some exciting new models and derivatives and, of course, about the brand's sporting heritage (from 1948)."

He added that the whole range would also be on show for the opening of the new David Lloyd fitness centre in Darenth Road, Dartford, on Saturday, February 28.

Changes to the Boxster (from £34,420) and Cayman (from £36,100) are typical: largely cosmetic on the outside to preserve the original design and residual values (and the goodwill of existing customers) while the German marque's relentless advance on the technology front is hidden beneath the sporting lines.

Both cars now have a new 'PDK' double-clutch auto/manual select gearbox (from £1,921) as an option, replacing the old Tiptronic system, and giving customers an even better and more fuel-efficient alternative to the standard manual shift.

NEW MEASURES: Porsche is revising its popular Boxster with new technology (left) and is giving the Cayenne a much-needed diesel engine

Brand aficionados will be quick to point out that PDK is not a case of Porsche being inspired by VW's DSG double-clutch system, but bringing a system to market that Porsche first developed for racing 25 years ago.

Power is also up: the standard Boxster 2.9-litre model gains 10bhp and 0.2-litres of capacity while the Boxster S 310bhp 3.4-litre has gained 15bhp through direct fuel injection. Cayman equivalents gain even more, in keeping with Porsche's determination to pitch the Coupé as an even more sporting product than its sister.

Despite extra horsepower though, all of the engines gain better economy at a time when consumption has never been under such scrutiny, even by well-heeled Porsche customers.

Porsche has also tweaked what was already an exemplary rear-driven chassis set-up and the Cayman now has an optional limited-slip differential on the rear axle for extra control – a feature omitted originally, say critics, because Porsche feared the Cayman would steal sales from the brand's jewel, the 911.

At the other extreme of the Porsche range, visually and dynamically, the diesel Cayenne (£40,250) has arrived in the nick of time.

Not so long ago this large SUV was vying to be the brand's best-seller until its thirst met soaring petrol prices and put the boot in.

The new 240bhp 3.0-litre V6 turbodiesel engine – courtesy of Audi – means that there is now a Cayenne capable of averaging around 30mpg, though emissions still place it in the maximum £400/year road tax bracket.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa range: urban 26.9 (10.5) - 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 44.1 (6.4) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 35.8 (7.9) - 62.8 (4.5), CO_2 Emissions 119 - 190g/km.

Model shown has optional 17-inch alloy wheels available at extra cost. Up to 74.3mpg figure refers to extra-urban cycle on the Corsa 1.3CDTi (75 PS). £35 refers to annual road tax cost on Corsa 1.3CDTi (75PS) models. No deposit 0% finance available on selected Corsa models. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers only. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK supplied vehicles only. A guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Recycling Allowance offer is available on selected engines and applies to the trade in and agreement to dispose of one vehicle only. To qualify for this offer, a customer must purchase one of the eligible models, trade in a vehicle and agree to dispose of the vehicle. The trade in vehicle must have been registered in the name of the customer prior to 30.06.08. Vehicle must be able to be driven on the highway. The customer must supply a vehicle registration document (V5C) and a valid MOT certificate to the retailer for the trade in vehicle. Vauxhall will ensure the vehicle is disposed of under the end of life vehicle directive and a certificate of destruction will be held by the retailer. If the customer agrees to dispose of the vehicle a total of £1000 (inc. VAT) will be paid towards the purchase of a new eligible model irrespective of the current market value of their vehicle. For more details on this offer and the eligible models go to www.offers.vauxhall.co.uk or visit your local retailer. Offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. All offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 03.02.09 and 02.04.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Vaux65927)

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YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£
AGILA							
2008	58	Agila Club CDTi	1.3	5	Star silver	1,455	8,995
ASTRA							
2006	06	Astra Sxi CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	20,900	7,695
2007	57	Astra Sport Twin Top	1.8	2	Star Silver	14,650	11,995
2008	08	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Star silver	3,460	10,895
2008	58	Astra Sports hatch Sxi	1.4	3	Star silver	2,810	10,495
CORSA							
2005	05	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	3	Silver light	38,019	5,295
2005	55	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Black sapphire	28,600	5,495
2008	08	New Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	3,025	8,995
2008	08	New Corsa Design	1.4	3	Star silver	2,950	9,495
2008	58	Corsa Club CDTi A/c	1.3D	5	Metro blue	Delivery	10,995
2008	58	Corsa Club CDTi A/C	1.3D	3	Black sapphire	Delivery	9,995
MERIVA							
2003	03	Meriva Life A/c	1.4	5	Star silver	48,000	3,395
2006	56	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Metro blue	29,170	7,995
TIGRA							
2004	54	Tigra Sport	1.4	2	Black sapphire	32,800	7,195
2006	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Star silver	15975	9,495
ZAFIRA							
2005	05	Zafira Life	1.8	5	Ultra blue	38,250	5,995
2005	55	New Zafira Life A/c	1.6	5	Flame red	31,650	6,995
2007	57	Zafira Exclusiv	1.6	5	Silver lightening	13,150	8,995
VECTRA							
2004	54	Vectra Club	1.8	4	Moonland	28150	4,395
NON VAUXHALL							
2002	52	Fiat Punto Active Sport	1.2	3	Metallic red	61,500	2,995
2001	51	Nissan Micra S	1.0	5	Red	59,575	2,695
2006	56	Hyundai Coupe Atlantic	2.0	2	Silver	17200	7,995
DUE SOON							
2006	06	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Ultra blue	25,000	5,295
2006	06	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Ultra blue	19,000	5,495
2008	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795
2008	08	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Metro blue	TBA	11,345
2007	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Flame red	16,000	12,995
2008	08	Astra Breeze Plus	1.4	3	Black sapphire	TBA	10,495
2003	53	Vectra Club	1.8	5	Moonland	42,000	3,795
2006	06	Zafira Active	1.6	5	Black sapphire	22,000	6,995
2007	57	Antara E Auto CDTi	2.0	5	Slate grey	8,250	12,995

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ANTARA								
2008	08	Antara S CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Slate blue	5,350	**15,995**	WAS 17,995
ASTRA								
2007	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Panacotta	8,275	**9,495**	WAS 9,995
2007	57	Astra Club CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	10,680	**8,995**	WAS 9,695
2008	57	Astra Breeze Plus	1.7D	5	Star silver	12,300	**9,395**	WAS 10,995
2008	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Star silver	17,300	**9,495**	WAS 10,495
2008	08	Astra Exc IS200 Conv	1.9D	2	Black	8,885	**15,495**	WAS 16,995
CORSA								
2007	57	New Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	25,500	**10,995**	WAS 11,295
2008	08	New Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	4,700	**12,995**	WAS 13,995
2008	08	New Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	2,000	**9,195**	WAS 9,795
2008	08	New Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	1,880	**9,195**	WAS 9,795
MERIVA								
2008	08	Meriva CDTi Breeze +	1.3D	5	Star silver	3,350	**10,995**	WAS 11,995
2008	08	Meriva Breeze	1.4	5	Black sapphire	12,500	**8,495**	WAS 8,995
SIGNUM								
2007	57	Signum Exclusiv CDTi Nav	1.9D	5	Star silver	9,950	**10,995**	WAS 12,995
VECTRA								
2008	57	Vectra CDTi Exclusive Auto	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	5,350	**10,995**	WAS 11,995
ZAFIRA								
2008	08	New Zafira Breeze CDTi +	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,985	**12,895**	WAS 13,995
2008	08	Zafira Club CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	8,500	**10,995**	WAS 12,495
2008	08	Zafira SRI CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	7,750	**12,995**	WAS 13,495

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08 08 Dodge Caliber 2.0 SXT Sport (CVT) Marine Blue Air Conditioning 8,582 Miles **£9,474**
06 56 Jeep Cherokee 2.8 CRD Limited Black Leather Cruise Sat Nav Climate 17,086 Miles **£9,974**
07 57 Dodge Caliber 2.0 SXT Sport CVT Auto Bright Silver CD Air conditioning 9,000 Miles **£9,974**
04 04 Chrysler Crossfie 3.2 Roadster Sapphire Silver Blue Nappa Leather Air Conditioning Cruise Control Climate Alloys 31,300 Miles **£9,974**
07 57 Dodge Nitro 2.8 CRD SE Black A/C CD/MP3/DVD 10,254 Miles . **£10,474**
06 56 Chrysler Voyager 2.8 CRD LX Brilliant Black Cruise Climate Driver electric seats 24,500 Miles **£10,974**
08 57 Dodge Avenger 2.0 CRD SXT Sunburst orange Grey Leather Air Conditioning CD/MP3/DVD 4,840 Miles **£11,974**
08 57 Dodge Avenger 2.0 CRD SE Inferno Red Air Conditioning CD/MP3/DVD 7,850 Miles **£11,974**
08 08 Jeep Compass 2.0 CRD Limited Steel Blue Leather Air Conditioning 4,450 Miles **£12,474**
08 08 Jeep Patriot 2.0 CRD Limited Bright silver Leather Air Conditioning 10,500 Miles **£12,674**
08 08 Chrysler Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive Mineral Grey Leather Cruise Climate 12,522 Miles **£12,974**
07 07 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive Bright silver Leather Air Conditioning Cruise Control Rear Parking Aid 13,660 Miles **£12,974**
07 57 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive Brilliant Black Leather Air Conditioning Cruise Control Rear Parking Aid 21,220 Miles **£13,494**
07 57 Jeep Commander 3.0 V6 CRD Limited Bright silver Leather Climate Front/Rear Parking Aid Roof Rails Cruise 13,450 Miles **£13,474**
07 57 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD Touring Brilliant black Grey Leather Climate Rear Parking Aid Cruise 10,874 Miles **£15,474**
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Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures (mpg (Litres per 100 km) and CO_2 emissions g/km) Urban Cycle 26.4 (10.7) – 29.1 (9.7) Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) – 40.4 (7.0) Combined 33.2 (8.5) – 35.8 (7.9) CO_2 emissions 185 – 201

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*Source: Independent Market Research Sagitta Consultancy 2006. **Source: B E Stats June 2008.

Voyager still on space frontier but starship looks are zapped

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

ChryslerVoyager

IT MIGHT share its name with a well-known starship, but Chrysler's latest Voyager MPV line-up is no eye candy for Trekkies.

For the boxy next generation model has retained the awesome people carrying ability of its forbears yet lost the fluidity that coated the practicality of earlier models.

Nevertheless, it remains the consummate family 'and stuff' on-road holdall, especially in bigger Grand Voyager format with its standard fit Stow 'n' Go capability.

This stroke of genius arrived in 2005 and rivals have been scrabbling to catch-up ever since. Stow 'n' Go addresses the big weakness of people carriers: where does the luggage go when carrying a full complement of passengers?

Chrysler's answer was simple: stow the seats in the floor when not needed and fill the empty space with luggage when they're not.

The second-row underfloor lockers make a huge difference to the car's flexibility and an ideal place to stash wine, beer, cheese and all the other extras from a day in France – as I've proved before.

Such practicality also brought the big MPV to the attention of the courtesy vehicle/taxi/corporate bus sector – people who work their vehicles hard. This big spaceship also makes an awesome van when all rear seats are 'stowed'.

Another huge boost to the Voyager series' popularity came with the arrival of diesel options, though the profligate and ecologically challenged may still buy a 190bhp V6 petrol version that will hit 60mph in 12 seconds at the cost of rarely returning more than 20mpg.

In that context, our 161bhp 2.8CRD diesel test model becomes something of a no-brainer with extra pulling power at the bottom end – where you need it for a car likely to carry seven plus baggage – comparable acceleration and 50 per cent better fuel consumption.

Mind you, both engines could do with fettling on the emissions front – neither escapes the maximum £400 road tax under current tariffs – but this will surely be addressed soon.

In the meantime, the big Chrysler can be guaranteed to make friends.

Our young son and his mates adored the car and its 'electric everything' list of goodies such as powered sliding rear doors and tailgate – features that saw it dubbed 'Thunderbird 6' in our household.

The list of standard fixtures and options are impressive, such as a Rear Entertainment Pack (£2,000) including almost obligatory DVD screens for the rear seats – guaranteed to defer any "Are we there yet?" moments.

On the driving front there is less to excite. Auto selection on the steering column seems archaic, but it does away with a floor-mounted selector and allows easy movement from front to back, while the six-speed 'box is smooth under duress.

Besides, this is a big vehicle with a chassis set up for comfort even when fully laden; hacking up and down the 'box and round the bends, really shouldn't be expected as part of the car's formidable list of abilities.

The airy interior is well arranged for all passengers, with plenty of head and legroom, storage and extra heating and ventilation controls for those in the back and I was also impressed by improved cabin fit and finish.

It remains a general weakness of the Chrysler brands – also including Dodge and Jeep – that they have not yet caught up to the customer expectations of the more demanding British and European markets.

However, they are aware of the deficiency and there is evidence of improvement. We also need to balance this against the value for

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DrivingStats

- Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Limited £33,595
- Range: £21,795(Voyager)-test car
- Garage stats: 5.14m by 1.95m seven-seat/five-door MPV
- Powertrain: 2,776cc/161bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving front wheels through a six-speed auto gearbox
- Performance: top speed 115mph and 0-62mph in 12.8 seconds.
- How green?: road tax band-G (£400/yr) and 247g per km CO2 emissions.
- Official fuel figures: combined 30.4mpg.
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 71 litres/16.6 gallons
- Insurance group: 12
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles.
- Website: www.jeep.co.uk
- Rivals: Citroën C4 Picasso (7-seater) or C8, Ford Galaxy, Hyundai i800, Kia Sedona, Mercedes-Benz Viano, Peugeot 807, Renault Espace, Seat Alhambra and VW Sharan

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07 57 **MATIZ 1.0 SE 5DR** Metallic Silver, A/C, PAS, E/Windows	£4995	£495
05 55 **LACETTI 1.6 SX AUTO** Blue, Air Con, Alloys	£5995	£1000
07 07 **KALOS 1.4 SX 5DR** Silver Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995	£1000
08 58 **MATIZ SE AUTO** Yellow, Alloys, PAS, Electric Pack	£6995	NIL
08 58 **AVEO 1.2 LS 5DR** Black Metallic, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking	£7995	£1000
07 07 **LACETTI 1.8 CDX 4DR AUTO** Silver/Green Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Multi CD	£7995	£2000
08 08 **LACETTI 1.6 SX ESTATE** Silver Metallic, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking	£8995	£1000
08 08 **AVEO 1.4 LT 5DR** Silver Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows	£8995	£1000
08 58 **TACUMA 1.6 SX MPV** Grey Met, A/C, E/Windows	£9995	£2000
08 08 **EPICA LS TD** Grey Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£11995	£1000
07 07 **CAPTIVA LT TD AWD 7ST AUTO** Black Met, A/C Alloys, E/Windows, Parking Sensors	£14995	£2500
08 58 **EPICA LT TD AUTO** Silver Met, Climate Cruise, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD	£16995	£1000
08 58 **CAPTIVA LS TD FWD** Silver Met, A/C Alloys, E/Windows	£16995	£1000

USED VOLKSWAGEN	OUR PRICE	CASH BACK
04 53 **GOLF 1.6 FE** Black, Air Con, Alloys	£6995	£1000
04 54 **GOLF 1.6 SE** Black, Air Con, Alloys, Cruise	£7995	£1000
04 54 **GOLF 2.0 GT TDi 140PS** Climate, Alloys, Park Distance	£8495	NIL

USED OTHER MAKES	OUR PRICE	CASH BACK
05 55 **FORD FOCUS 1.6 SPORT ESTATE** Silver, Alloys, Air Con	£5995	£500
05 55 **RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6 AUTO** Black Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995	£500
05 05 **RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE** Metallic Blue, Air Con, Alloys	£5995	£1000
05 55 **MITSUBISHI COLT 5DR 1.3 EQUIPPE** Silver Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows	£5995	£1000
05 55 **RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 7 SEATER** Blue Metallic, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys	£5995	£495
06 05 **PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.4 TOTEM** Silver Met, PAS, E/Windows	£5995	£495
04 54 **MAZDA 3 5DR TS AUTO** Blue Metallic, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, C/Locking	£6795	£800
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2001 51 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7DI 16V COMFORT, 5dr manual, hatchback, diesel, 148,000 miles, metallic green, Mot until July 2009 ..... **£1995 P/X WELCOME**

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159, 2.4 JTDM Lusso 4dr QTRONIC Diesel Saloon, gj07ckv, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, alarm, trip computer, cruise control, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, rear headrests, rear armrest, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, £14995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, 2003, abs air conditioning alloy wheels board computer cd player clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment, blue, 29277 miles, £6650, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

A3, 1.9 TDi SE 5dr, 126687127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, climate control, adjustable steering column, power steering, child locks, quick-clear screen, automatic electric windows, dual climate zones, cd player, radio, stereo, 16'' alloys, black, 34283 miles, £9999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

A4, 2.0 SE 4dr, lr55lha, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control,electric front windows, electric windows, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, quartz grey, 51930 miles, £9799, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9 TDi TDV SE 4dr, 126816127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, tcruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, phantom black, 49056 miles, £10499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

A4, 1.9 TDI 130 SE 5dr, 27/09/2002, silver, 127386 miles, £4000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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3 SERIES, 325i SE, ek53 aen, air conditioning, climate control, full leather, abs, power steering, twin air bags, curtain airbags, side air bags, traction control, cruise control, trip computer, multi-function steering wheel, auto-dip rearview, rain-sensing wipers, cd player, radio, adjustable steering column, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, height adjustable seat, centre armrest, rear headrests, front fog lamps, parking sensor, alloy wheels, black, 38300 miles, £7695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d SE 4dr, ea55urv, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, air conditioning, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, parking sensor, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, retractable headrests, rear armrest, rear headrests, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, trip computer, child locks, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, metallic paintwork, automatic electric windows, climate control, dual climate zones, stereo, steering wheel audio controls, radio, cd player, 16'' alloys, blue met, 26894 miles, £11699, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d SE 5dr Auto, ea56myp, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, air conditioning, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, folding rear seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, trip computer, child locks, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, automatic electric windows, climate control, dual climate zones, stereo, steering wheel audio controls, radio, cd player, 16'' alloys, silk green, 53640 miles, £11999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection cd player central locking clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment electric front windows passenger airbag power steering radio tiltable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £8145, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN Berlingo LX, 08 03, 1.4 petrol/lpg whie side door 22, 000 miles, £2295, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDi 600Kg First Diesel, gk58xuf, pas, drivers airbag, service indicator, immobiliser, solid paint, front head restraints, white, 51 miles, £6995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte D, ek55 vge, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, twin air bags, abs, cloth upholstery, silver, 28100 miles, £5695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, power steering, brand new. delivery mileage. grp lined. standby available if required (optional extra). white, 15 miles, £9995, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 800 2.0HDI Refrigerated Chiller, 2972180, grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required (optional extra). lez compliant. white, 34000 miles, £6295, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 800 2.0HDI Refrigerated Chiller, 2983180, side load door, cd player, air bag, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, gah equipment. grp lined. electric standby available if required (optional extra). lez compliant. white, 23000 miles, £7295, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.9D Refrigerated Freezer Chiller, 2993180, radio cassette, air bag, power steering, carrier equipment. grp lined. lez compliant. aluminium silver, 39000 miles, £4995, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

FIAT

PANDA, 1.2 Dynamic 5dr (2004 - 1905), 25/09/2006, cd player, blue, 11934 miles, £4500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.2 Eleganza 5dr Hatch, 565594256, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, climate control, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, rear headrests, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, space saver spare wheel, rear wiper, roof rails, immobiliser, cocktail blue metallic, 14000 miles, £5495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.3 Multijet Dynamic 5dr Diesel Hatch, gf58gjx, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, isofix child seat anchor points, space saver spare wheel, rear wiper, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, silver metallic, 50 miles, £7695, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.2 Eleganza 5dr Hatch, gu07kkh, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, climate control, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, rear headrests, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, space saver spare wheel, rear wiper, roof rails, immobiliser, cocktail blue metallic, 14000 miles, £5495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.2 Dynamic 5dr Hatch, 587035256, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, trip computer, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, body coloured bumpers, front head restraints, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, folding rear seats, cloth seat trim, rear wiper, surf azure metallic, 26100 miles, £4495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.3 Multijet Dynamic 5dr Diesel Hatch, gf58gjv, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, isofix child seat anchor points, space saver spare wheel, rear wiper, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, crossover black metallic, 100 miles, £6995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, Style, 07 2007, this car is just turned 1 year old the last owner decided that she does not do enough miles to warrent such a new car. it is still coverd by the ford warrenty, it is in the very low tax and insurance goups. this must be very good value for a small 5 door car with less then 5 thousand miles. test drive available, finance subject to status, blue, £7295, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

FIESTA, LX, "n" 1996, this is a part exchange to clesr. a 1.8 diesel engine makes this a powerful little car. it benifits from power assisted steering, central locking. it realy is a clean motor, black, 117000 miles, £895, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate] (2005 - 2005), 28/09/2007, moondust silver, 6247 miles, £6700, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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(04) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1.3 T SPIRIT AUTO, 5 Dr, Red, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Lock, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Reverse Sensors,1 Owner, 30800 Miles, S/Hist., I. Gp 5 ..... £6295
(04) TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 T3 AUTO, 3 Dr, Silver, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Dealer + 1 Owner, ONLY 9900 Miles, S/History, Ins. Grp 6 ..... £5995
(56) HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.4 ARCTIC AUTO, 3 Dr, Black, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, ONLY 3400 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 7 ..... £5995
(56) KIA PICANTO 1.1 LX AUTO, 5 Dr, Black, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD Player, ONLY 8800 Miles, Ins. Gp 3, RFL £120 p.a. £5495
(03) HONDA CIVIC COUPE 1.7 VTEC AUTO, 2 Dr, Met. Green, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 2 Owners,21500 Miles, S/History, Ins. Grp 11 ..... £4995
(03) NISSAN MICRA 1.4 SE AUTO, 5 Dr, Black, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, 2 Owners, 37100 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 4 ..... £4495
(51) TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 CDX AUTO, 5 Dr, Pale Green, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Alloys, E/F/Windows, ABS, CD, Sunroof, 2 Owners, 45000 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 5 ..... £4295
(52) NISSAN ALMERA 1.8 E AUTO, 3 Dr, Met. Blue, PAS, C/Locking, E/F/Windows, Alloys, 2 Owners, 30500 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 7 ..... PRIVATE CUSTOMER SALE £3495
(X) HONDA CIVIC 1.4 SE AUTO, 3 Dr, Red, Air Conditioning, PAS, Remote C/Locking, Sunroof, Alloys, 58500 Miles, 7 Service Stamps, Ins.Gp 7, RFL £120 Per Year £2795
(55) MAZDA 5 1.8 TS2, 5 Dr, Met.Red, 7 Seats, Air Con, PAS, Remote C/Locking, E/Windows, ABS, CD, Alloys, Reversing Sensors, ONLY 12800 Miles, Ins. Grp 6, S/History £7795

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£625.89	£10	£9920.89

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Based on 12,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charged at 6 pence per mile.

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£10795	£1201.81	£9593.61

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Total Charge For Credit	doc & option fee	Total Amount Payable
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FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate] (2005 - 1905), 28/09/2007, silver, 6877 miles, £6700, Invicta Motors, Canterburry, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate] (2005 - 2005), 31/10/2007, silver, 14337 miles, £6700, Invicta Motors, Canterburry, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate] (2005 - 1905), 01/01/2007, abs, black, 18222 miles, £6400, Invicta Motors, Canterburry, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate] (2005 - 1905), 28/09/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 10960 miles, £6800, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr [Climate] (2005 - 1905), 28/09/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 8102 miles, £7400, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr (2005 - 1905), 26/01/2006, abs, red, 28013 miles, £5800, Invicta Motors, Canterburry, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 3dr [Climate] (2005 - 1905), 26/01/2006, cd player, blue, 31713 miles, £6400, Invicta Motors, Canterburry, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

HONDA

JAZZ, Dsi SE 5dr, 4433314, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, blue, 7000 miles, £8995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Dsi SE 5dr, gy08ugp, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, height adjustable seat, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, air bag, isofix, multiple airbags, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, grey, 1800 miles, £10995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, Gsi 5dr, gk52ymp, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 60000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S TYPE 3.0, 2003 (03), 03 (53) jaguar s-type v6 3.0 se auto, metallic silver coachwork with grey leather trim, only 42000 miles, memory steering wheel position, electric windows, electric & folding mirrors, cd multiplayer with hi-fi pack, multiple air bags, electronic park brake, on board computor, cruse control, traction control, tinted glass, alloy wheels etc, etc. only £8995, metallic silver, £8995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

JEEP

CHEROKEE, Pioneer Crd Diesel Swb 5 dr auto just 40000 miles, gl05nfm, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, tow pack, electric front windows, electric mirrors, electric windows, powered folding mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, centre armrest, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, alloy wheels, 4x4, no vat, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, white, 40000 miles, £4995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, SX 5-Seats 5dr, ao51 kwx, central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, radio cassette, twin air bags, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, champagne, 46200 miles, £2495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0 CRDi LX Automatic Diesel, 2006, insurance group 8 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment, imperial blue, 32629 miles, £5495, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

CEED, 2008, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking climate control drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front armrest front electric windows front fog lights front head restraints heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points , abyss blue, 2226 miles, £10995, WJ King Vauxhall, Swanley, 01322 662890 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 2.4d County, gk08vpx, cloth, county grey, alloy wheels, sun hatch glass tilt/remove, body coloured roof, body coloured wheelarch eyebrows, coil spring suspension, front and rear beam axle, headlamp levelling, heated rear window/wash/wipe, heavy-duty suspension, lockable front centre differential, passive engine immobilisation, power-assisted steering, rear mudflaps, single cd player, tinted glass, volumetric and perimetric alarm, zermatt silver, 4503 miles, £16995.0000, Barretts Land Rover (Canterbury), Canterbury, 0845 3709764 (TRADE)

LEXUS

IS, 220d 4dr, bt56suo, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, climate control, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, multi-disc cd player, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, headlamp wash/wipe, alloy wheels, argento ice, 39432 miles, £10999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

IS 300, 3.0 Saloon 4Dr 2997cc auto, 03/2003, climate control cruise control alloy wheels 6 disc cd player electric heated seats traction control & much much more!!!, blue metallic, 64, 000 miles, £9995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, GXi D 5dr, ow52hsl, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, green, 94000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

5, TS2 D 2.0 110PS 5dr MPV, jan 2006 gl55hyf, two previous keepers, power steering remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, cd autochanger, twin/side/curtain airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, electricdoor mirrors, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, sports seats, seven seats, alloy wheels. carbon grey metallic, 15, 000 miles, £12, 995, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

6, TS Tdi 143ps, 2005, grey metalic with black, 25000 miles, £9995, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

6, TS D 143, 2006, grey metalic with charcoal, 31000 miles, £10495, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, ls05ldv, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats,abs, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, gold, 18000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, ck56nsz, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, folding rear seats, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, cruise control, alloy wheels, blue, 2000 miles, £9995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, 4853314, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric sliding doors, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, reef blue, 19000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

A150, 3 door Classic SE, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 50 miles, £11000, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 3 door Classic SE, 2008, polar silver metallic, 4000 miles, £13650, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 door Classic SE, 2008, lotus blue metallic, 1000 miles, £10990, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 3 door Classic SE, 2008, lotus blue metallic, 50 miles, £11300, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 door Classic SE, 2008, saturn red metallic, 11486 miles, £10200, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

MINI

ONE, 3dr, lx52 ucu, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, height adjustable seat, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, salt pack, yellow, 44900 miles, £6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 Elegance Automatic, 2005, abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights half leather seats heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, steel grey, 950 miles, £7750, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.1 CZ1, 2006, abs body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, lunar silver, 3500 miles, £5995, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

NISSAN

MICRA, Spirita 3dr Auto, dy56 vnk, air conditioning, power steering, abs, twin air bags, cd player, radio, adjustable steering column, cloth upholstery, electric front windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, blue, 17500 miles, £5495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MICRA, SE 5dr, ly54 aom, air conditioning, remote central locking, remote alarm, twin air bags, electric sunroof, electric mirrors, electric front windows, power steering, parking sensor, abs, cd player, radio, trip computer, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, alloy wheels, blue, 15200 miles, £4495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MICRA, LS 5dr, j134 egy, sunroof, radio, beige, 60000 miles, £595, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

Micra, S 5dr, ek55joh, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric front windows, cd player, aluminium silver, 15000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

307, 2.0 cc s, 2005, grey metalic with grey leather, 26000 miles, £11695, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

307, 1.4 S 5dr Man, gl53gfk, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, twin air bags, child locks, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, nero black, 87000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

307, Style Zest 5dr, lv05hfw, blue, 31000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

307, S 5dr, eg07cdo, folding rear seats, height adjustable seat, cloth upholstery, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, black, 6000 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

307, S 5dr, gk56xmd, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, silver, 9000 miles, £7495, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

307, SW SE, 4652314, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, privacy glass, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, rear headrests, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, bronze, 16000 miles, £6995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

Supra, [no trim], 1992, very good condition, reguraly serviced, mechanic owner, red, 180000 miles, £1800, 07523706228 (PRIVATE)

COROLLA, 2005, abs alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers climate control drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors electric sunroof folding rear seats front armrest front electric windows front head restraints full size spare wheel heated door mirrors pas passenger airbag radio/cd rear electric windows rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, aluminium, 20490 miles, £6995, WJ King Vauxhall, Farningham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

COROLLA, VIDA VVTI, 2000, red, 0 miles, £2695, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

COROLLA, T3 VVT-I 5dr 1.6 Man, lw03kwx, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, central locking, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, trip computer, abs, brake assist, child locks, side air bags, twin air bags, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, 15'' alloys, lucerne silver, 75000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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CORSA, 2005, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs audio remote control body coloured bumpers cloth seat trim drivers airbag full size spare wheel heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat pas passenger airbag rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking service indicator steel wheels, star silver, 16060 miles, £6795, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

CORSA, Energy 3dr, gj54 oed, air conditioning, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, alloy wheels, red, 38500 miles, £4295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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2004 04 **SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear**, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 47,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey. ABS, Air con, Alarm, Alloys, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Full Service History, Drivers airbag, Full Electric pack, Immobiliser, Park distance control, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Passenger airbag, Radio/CD, Remote central locking, Service indicator, Side airbags, Solid Paint, Traction control **£8,000**

2005 55 **SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Vector Sport**, 4 Doors, Auto, Saloon, Diesel, 85,000 miles, Metallic Nocturne Blue. 3x3 point rear seat belts, ABS, Alarm, Alloys, Body coloured bumpers, Climate control, Cruise control, Drivers airbag, Full Electric pack, Immobiliser, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Radio/CD, Rear armrest, Rear electric windows, Rear headrests, Remote central locking, Reverse parking aid, Service indicator, Side airbags, Solid Paint **£6,995**

2002 52 **SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero**, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 63,260 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloys, Cruise control, Heated seats, Full Electric pack, Park distance control, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Met paintwork, Tinted glass **£5,495**

1999 V **SAAB 9-5 2.3T SE**, 4 Drs, Auto, Saloon, Petro , 94,000 miles, Black. ABS, Alarm, Alloys, Climate control, Cruise control, Full Electric pack, Immobiliser, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Remote central locking, Side airbags, Traction control, Trip computer **£2,500**

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2002 52 **JAGUAR S-Type 2.5 V6**, 4 Drs, Manual, Saloon, Petro, 41,715 miles, Blue. ABS, Alarm, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Full Electric pack, Climate control, Immobiliser, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Passenger airbag, Radio/CD, Radio/Cassette, Remote central locking, Traction control, Trip computer **£4,000**

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Our SMEs are being hammered

ONE in four Kent B2B – business to business – small and medium-sized enterprises are facing closure because of the recession, ***writes Tony Patey.***

This is harsh news because SMEs make up most of the firms in the county. Business services companies are being hammered by the economic downturn, with many reporting incomes down by 20 per cent or more in the last three months of last year.

If this trend continues, one in four will run out of cash within three months and be forced to cease trading, according to research published by SavingYourBusiness.co.uk a business turnaround consultancy.

The survey, which polled 250 SME business service providers across the South East throughout January and covered a range of sectors, found a wide variance of trading experience – from resigned hope to outright panic.

The following statistics emerged:

- 24 per cent will run out of cash within the next three months;
- 11 per cent have already started to investigate exit strategies;
- 74 per cent are having significant difficulty getting paid by customers;
- 65 per cent are not currently trading profitably month-by-month;
- 58 per cent are having problems obtaining support from banks;
- 45 per cent have laid off staff or are considering doing so.

Although companies enjoying high percentages of income from the public sector are still reasonably confident, those mainly serving the private business sector, particularly in IT services, recruitment and management consultancy, report that business has fallen off a cliff.

Although the National Business Survey results released in January suggest that Kent and the South East is better placed to withstand the downturn, the feeling on the ground contradicts this, said SavingYourBusiness.co.uk managing partner Peter Smith.

He said: "Partly this is because the NBS covers the whole country, but mostly due to the region's disproportionate dependency on business services, which account for over half of the region's GDP.

"Small-business owners are particularly vulnerable and companies with less than five employees account for nearly half the organisations in the sector. As the recession has deepened, big business sectors such as property, finance, travel and manufacturing have slashed their budgets for external services and providers are being hammered.

"For many of these organisations profit levels were not high to start with, so a reduction of as little as 15 per cent in client revenue can turn them into instant loss-makers."

Another key finding is that more than two-thirds of companies are struggling to pay their bills because customers are stretching credit terms way beyond those agreed.

The end of January was particularly crippling as both income tax and VAT payments were due, and many companies just didn't have the cash to pay, said Mr Smith.

"So they have a double whammy of reduced income and big outgoings. Many are hanging on by the skin of their teeth."

'Honesty is the best policy'

FRAUD is on the increase as firms and individuals take what they think is a quick and easy route in the economic downturn – meaning transparency is even more essential to keep a good name.

Showing that everything is above board and legal, especially with the tax year end approaching, is more important than ever for company directors or they risk breaking the law. With credit still hard to come by from the banks, many companies may be uncertain of getting continuing financial support.

But this may have personal consequences for directors, who should disclose any uncertainties which could affect their business's status as a going concern, says Kent accountancy firm Horwath Clark Whitehill.

It is expected there will be a significant rise in annual reports published this year containing disclosures relating to liquidity and going-concern issues. Mark Anderson, a partner with the firm, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone, said: "It is very important that company directors are honest and open when writing the disclosures to be contained in annual reports.

"With pressures caused by the credit crunch it can be tempting to avoid difficult issues. However, by not being open to major stakeholders including creditors, shareholders and staff, directors could ultimately face personal liability claims.

"Disclosing uncertainties in an annual report does not mean the end of a business or a change in its going concern status, although directors will undoubtedly feel they are treading a fine line between fulfilling statutory duties and their need to protect the ability of the company to continue to secure credit from banks and suppliers. Trading is being done in much tougher economic circumstances but stakeholders are entitled to information to help them to understand the financial standing of a company, and they will undoubtedly take these outside factors into consideration."

If a business is forced into administration or liquidation, directors must demonstrate they have taken reasonable steps to prevent such an event and to protect creditors.

Despite the fact that many necessary protection measures put in place by directors will take place in the privacy of the boardroom, failure to fully disclose them in the financial statements could lead to claims of wrongful or even fraudulent trading.

Mr Anderson said: "Honesty is undoubtedly the best policy and companies need to communicate clearly."

MARK ANDERSON

KOS Media Business

businessforkent.co.uk

CITY LIFE: How are the region's AIM firms coping with the downturn?

Weather eye on the barometer

BUSINESSFORKENT today presents an exclusive progress report about companies in the region which are listed on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market, which allows smaller companies to float their shares. Called the Southern Region AIM Barometer it will be brought to you every three months, and is compiled by accountants and business advisors BDO Stoy Hayward and the University of Surrey. The objective is to help readers find out about the various types of local businesses that are on AIM - and how the wider economic situation is affecting them – what makes a successful AIM company and when is the right time for a firm to consider an AIM listing. There are about 90 AIM-listed companies in the southern region.

THERE'S been a sea of gloom on AIM – as with other share markets – but Kent technology firms have provided some bright spots.

In line with the national trend, most county-based companies on the market showed falls in value, either during the last 12 months or during the last quarter ending December 31. But some notable exceptions bucked the trend – or suffered relatively less – especially in the technology sector. These include Maidstone-based System C Healthcare, Synchronica in Tunbridge Wells, and Sevenoaks-based Supercart. System C Healthcare, an IT company that specialises in clinical information systems, showed a 45 per cent increase in its value over the last 12 months, with a 1.4 per cent increase in its value over the last quarter.

Meantime, Synchronica, operating extensively in mobile communications, lost 27.5 per cent over the year but showed positive signs of recovery in the last quarter. Its share price index increased by 31.8 per cent during the last quarter, after winning new contracts in some emerging markets. As the pound weakens, the future looks good for exporting technology companies competing for contracts abroad.

Healthcare technology firm VivoMedica, based at Sittingbourne's Kent Science Park, lost 27.5 per cent over the year but on the last quarter rocketed ahead by 33 per cent. Supercart manufactures and distributes plastic products including supermarket trolleys and hand baskets. Its shares did not generate any gains either in the last quarter or over the year, but it did not fall as much compared with the other companies.

UPS AND DOWNS: Best-performing Kent firms

David Eagle, partner at BDO Stoy Hayward's Southern offices, said: "In this period of market turmoil, there is not much consistency in the pricing of individual companies.

Much of the recent falls in share price have little to do with the performance or prospects of many AIM firms in the region. Companies will find it frustrating to announce good results in spite of market conditions only to see either no movement in value or even negative reaction driven by unduly optimistic expectations." The Southern

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.59% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2012
OD: £1,339

FIRST ACTIVE RBS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.19% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2011
OD: £1,029

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.99% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/04/2011
OD: £1,325

ITL MORTGAGES
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.89% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/03/2011
OD: £1,184

OTHER

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.09% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £2,310

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 3 YEARS
OD: £1,755

PROGRESSIVE BS
RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE **R%:** 4.25% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £869

MARSDEN
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 28/02/2011
OD: £924

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

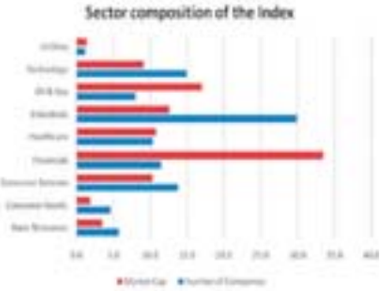
region AIM Barometer has continued to fall since May, 2008. In line with AIM stocks nationally, the Southern region index has fallen by over 60 per cent from its initial value in December, 2007. The loss in value has occurred largely during the second half of the year, as market uncertainties following the credit crunch increased. Dr Sam Agyei-Ampomah, senior finance lecturer at the University of Surrey, said: "Many of the companies in the Southern region are struggling to hold onto their value. At the beginning of 2008, 53 per cent of the companies had market capitalisation in excess of £10 million but by the end of

the year this figure fell to 31 per cent. Should this trend continue, more companies are likely to leave the market. However, AIM companies in the region performed marginally better in the last quarter than AIM stocks nationally.

"This is largely due to the relatively better performance of the oil and gas and technology sectors. The impact of the general economic decline on the various industrial sectors in the region is varied.

" The financial sector companies, which contribute over 33 per cent of the Southern Barometer value, lost over 62 per cent of their value off the back of growing concerns over rising bad debts and write-offs.

"Companies in the basic resources and consumer goods sectors have suffered most."



Spotlight on PHSC

AYLESFORD-based PHSC provides workplace safety, health and environmental services to UK public and private sector clients.

It goes back to 1990 and moved to AIM in mid-2005. On average, it has acquired one new subsidiary in each of the past five years.

After years of growth, group revenues for 2008-09 are expected to be at the £5 million level, similar to the previous year, but with pre-tax profits falling to about £0.6 million as against £0.75 million. This stagnation reflects reduced client confidence overall.

Chief executive officer Stephen King said: "The board is satisfied that revenue is being maintained at broadly the same level as last year. However, increased administrative costs in areas such as salaries, transport and utilities indicates a reduction in pre-tax profits and we don't feel this is the time to try and recover the shortfall through higher fees."

A diverse client portfolio leaves it better placed than many competitors. There are no borrowings and net cash in the bank.

It expects "that having our base in Kent may insulate us a little from the worst of the downturn, due to the relative affluence of the area".

Taking stock of the ISA season

By **LIZ RULE**
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

USUALLY in February, financial advisers begin to take calls from clients who wish to put money into ISA savings before the end of the tax year on April 5.

Clients invariably choose their own cash ISAs from the best rates available on the high street but talk to their adviser on which stocks and shares ISAs to consider. After 2008, which was possibly the worst year for investments that many have experienced, it remains to be seen whether people will be keen to invest.

There are conflicting schools of thought on the cash versus stocks and shares conundrum for private investors.

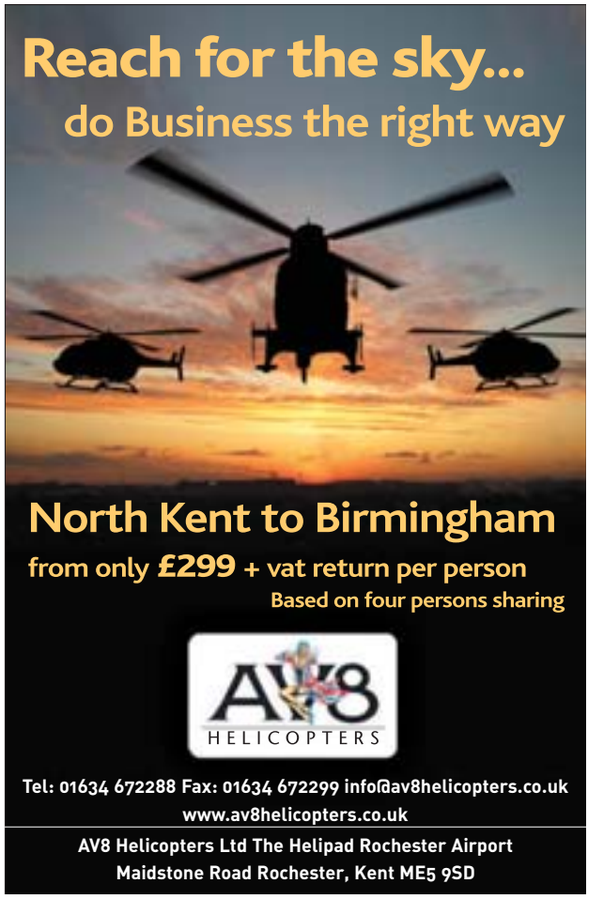
Firstly, many may think that as rates for cash deposits are so low at the moment they may need to consider a stocks and shares ISA for the higher growth and income prospects it offers. Also as global stock markets are so low, this could be the best share-buying opportunity for a generation.

However, many investors having witnessed the incredible volatility and unprecedented events during the past year, will still remain too wary of stocks and shares and opt for cash, despite rates being potentially lower than inflation.

If you cannot tie up your money for at least five years, and hate the thought of the value fluctuating, then cash is probably still the best place for your money. Look at National Savings Certificates in addition to ISAs.

If you can afford to put some money away for the long term, say five to 10 years plus, then stocks and shares could be a good bet. There is no guarantee that markets may not fall another few per cent over the next couple of years as the world battles recession. There is also no guarantee that the recovery, when it happens, will be a rapid one.

But gains over the next 10 to 15 years could be significant for those brave enough to commit.



LIFE COVER COMPARISON FOR £150,000 OVER 25 YEARS

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MALE AGED 25		FEMALE AGED 25	
LEGAL & GENERAL	£7.55	LEGAL & GENERAL	£6.20
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£8.11	NORWICH UNION	£6.33
NORWICH UNION	£8.28	LV=	£6.52
AXA	£8.38	FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£6.72
SCOTTISH PRVIDNT	£8.49	NORWICH UNION	£6.80
AEGON SCOT EQ	£8.68	AXA	£7.13
LV=	£8.70	AEGON SCOT EQ	£7.15
MALE AGED 40		**FEMALE AGED 40**	
AEGON SCOT EQ	£18.29	NORWICH UNION	£14.81
NORWICH UNION	£18.35	AEGON SCOT EQ	£15.06
BRIGHT GREY	£18.59	BRIGHT GREY	£15.16
LEGAL & GENERAL	£18.65	NORWICH UNION	£15.20
ZURICH	£18.70	ZURICH	£15.25
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£18.72	FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£15.41
NORWICH UNION	£18.75	LUTINE ASSURANCE	£15.56

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Apprenticeships in the spotlight

NATIONAL Apprenticeship Week, February 23-29, sees the start of a campaign to raise the profile of apprenticeships and E2E (Entry to Employment) options.

It is led by the Kent Association of Training Organisations and starts with seminars for teachers and careers advisors.

They are on Monday, February 23, at Maplesden Noakes School, Maidstone; then on Tuesday, February 24, at Hartsdown Technology College, Margate; and Thursday, February 26, at Sittingbourne Community College. Each runs from 12.30-3.45pm, except Hartsdown, which is 1.30-4.45pm. Details are online at www.kato-training.com or call 0800 756 6953.

KENT firms can learn how to make cost-effective changes, helping save the environment as well as money, at a breakfast seminar entitled: Sustainability in business – how to cut costs while saving our planet. It is at Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, on Tuesday, February 24, and hosted by the Kent branch of the Institute of Directors and Business Link. Book on 01732 849570. Tickets are £7 for IoD members and £15, plus VAT, for non-members.

Why compromise on your rights?

Redundant staff should seek expert advice

By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

A COMPLETELY legal way of employers getting workers to sign away the right to take them to an employment tribunal is being used more as firms are hit by the recession.

Redundancies are headline news every day and companies are trying to safeguard against tribunal claims by using what are called compromise agreements.

They are legally binding agreements following the termination of employment and usually provide for a severance payment in return for the employee agreeing not to pursue any claim in a tribunal.

Joanna Worby, partner and head of employment and HR services at law firm Brachers, said: "As a consequence of the rapidly deteriorating economic climate many employees across Kent are being offered these agreements by their employers.

"Sometimes employers also insert clauses to restrain employees from working with others or from disclosing confidential information."

However, an employee must have the agreement explained by an independent solicitor before it becomes binding. The solicitor giving the advice must even sign the agreement and certify that the appropriate advice has been given.

According to industry insiders, they have been initiated mainly by employers who want to prevent employees complaining to a tribunal after they have been made redundant. If an employer doesn't comply with the law in making redundancies – perhaps through failing to consult properly or failing to use fair selection criteria – an employee can complain to a tribunal that the redundancy was unfair.

This can be done after the redundancy and could result in an award of compensation or even reinstatement.

However, although there is no legal or other obligation on an employee to sign an agreement, refusing to sign means the employee is free to make a claim to the employment tribunal.

This could mean the employer might refuse to pay the full redundancy package and will instead pay the minimum state entitlement. So the employee has to decide if a complaint to a tribunal or other legal action is likely to compensate for what may have lost by refusing to sign.

Ms Worby said: "Compromise agreements have been available and permitted by the law for many years. They are not a new development.

"The trade unions have no objections. The employee's interests are protected because the employee has to seek advice from a qualified lawyer for the compromise agreement to be enforceable at all.

"This advice must be from a qualified solicitor and most reasonable employers usually pay for, or at least make a contribution towards, the employee's legal fees. It is crucial that advice is sought from an experienced employment solicitor.

"Why would an employer want an employee to sign? This is more likely than not because they have not been able to comply fully with the legal requirements to terminate employment."

ADVICE: Joanna Worby

Settle that tax bill now

PEOPLE who failed to meet the January 31 deadline for payment of outstanding tax face escalating penalties if they do not settle up as soon as possible.

Steve Carpenter (pictured right), tax manager at Maidstone-based DSH accountants and business advisors, said: "If, for whatever reason, you haven't managed to file your return or make your self-assessment tax payment by the deadline you should rectify this.

"Anyone who missed the filing deadline will be subject to an automatic £100 fine and interest will be charged on any outstanding tax.

"To avoid further penalties, action should be taken as soon as possible. Interest will be charged on the outstanding amount at a rate of 4.5 per cent per annum until the liability is cleared."

If the debt has still not been cleared by February 28 then a five per cent surcharge will apply, with a further five per cent charge if the balance is still outstanding on July 31.

He added: "HM Revenue and Customs has said that extra time may be given to taxpayers who are genuinely unable to pay the amount owed. Although interest will continue to be charged until the tax is paid, the surcharges will not be levied provided you have proposed a payment schedule to the Revenue.

"But once the surcharges have been levied, it is too late to have them cancelled."

FORE! Ian Woosnam hits an approach shot at Prince's during qualifying for the the 2003 Open

Make a royal date

See golfing stars of the future tee up at Prince's

By DAVID PRITCHARD

GOLF fans will be able to watch future stars of the sport for free this summer when the PGA EuroPro Tour comes to Prince's Golf Club in Sandwich.

The renowned club, one of only 14 to host The Open Championship, has agreed to host the three-day tournament in June after being approached by the PGA.

Situated below the elite European Tour, the EuroPro Tour is designed as a stepping stone to help developing players make the transition to top level competition. Recent players to graduate from the circuit include Graeme Storm and Zane Scotland.

Bill Howie, general manager/director at Prince's Leisure Group, believes these events are vital to cultivate young talent.

He said: "In years to come some of the players are going to be established household names; the Nick Faldos or Ian Woosnams of the future and they need to cut their teeth in events like this.

"It's great experience for a lot of the young pros who have never played here before. Like all links courses it's exposed to the weather and hopefully we'll get some strong winds on one of the days."

While Prince's one and only Open Championship was back in 1932, the club is used to holding important tournaments. It regularly stages final qualifying for The Open and in 2006 co-hosted the British Amateur Championships with nearby Royal St George's.

At almost 7,300 yards it is one of the longest links courses in the country and even if the weather is benign it should prove tough to master.

Danny Nickless, operations manager of the Tour, said: "Prince's Golf Club is one of the most challenging venues in British golf and we're delighted the Tour will return there this summer."

The EuroPro tournament, which begins on June 9, will be free for the public to enter and will be covered by Sky TV.

The announcement is the latest in a series of good news stories for golf fans in the county. It will come less than a fortnight after the London Club, near Brands Hatch, holds the European Open for the second successive year.

In 2011 the biggest tournament of all returns to Kent as Royal St George's hosts The Open Championship.

Kent amateur golfers Matt Haines and Tom Sherreard finished tied 52nd and 59th respectively at the Jones Cup last week.

Sherreard from Maidstone and Haines from Medway performed well in a field of 90 at Georgia's Ocean Forest Golf Club in America.

Both are now included in the provisional Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup squad, with the final squad of 10 to be announced in August.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

Coleman clinches title in sprint finish

MIKE Coleman added to his medal tally by clinching the Kent 10-mile road race in a dramatic sprint finish at Sidcup last Sunday.

The Medway & Maidstone runner crossed the line first just two seconds ahead of James Conner of Kent Athletics Club with a last gasp sprint finish. The top three finishers were separated by just four seconds with James Lawler, also representing Kent AC, finishing in third place.

Coleman broke the 50-minute barrier for the race, clocking a time of 49 minutes and 57 seconds to clinch the gold medal.

The victory is the latest success for Coleman, who started the 2009 season in a good run of form. Coleman blitzed the field to secure his sixth consecutive Kent Cross Country Championship in January, and followed that result up with a fourth place in the South of England Championships.

Helen Decker from Ipswich Jaffa Running Club won the women's event, finishing 23rd overall with a time of 57 minutes, 40 seconds.

Young Exiles' bid for grant pays off

KENT Exiles received a boost ahead of the new American football season after a group of their youth players successfully applied for a grant.

The club received £3,500 from Kent County Council's Youth Opportunity Fund, which aims to support activities for young people and looks to widen their role as decision makers and project leaders.

It encourages applications from youngsters and four of the Exiles' youth players got together to send in an application.

Linebacker Gary Owens said: "It's shown me that if we take a lead we can make a difference. The club do a huge amount for us and we wanted to give something back."

The quartet's team-mates will directly benefit from the grant, with the club planning to spend the money on training equipment and kit for the youth teams.

Training for the club's two youth teams has begun for the new season, which begins in April.

The Exiles, who play their home games in Crockenhill near Swanley, welcome new recruits aged 14 or over.

• *Visit www.kentexiles.co.uk for more information.*

City buoyed by U19 All Blacks signing

SWITCH: Michael Coman will play for Canterbury until the end of the season

CANTERBURY are hoping to build permanent links with New Zealand rugby giants namesakes Canterbury Crusaders after signing one of their players until the end of the season.

The National 3 South club pulled off a coup by signing former under-19 All Black Michael Coman, who was expected to make his league debut against Henley yesterday.

The 22-year-old is a development player with the Super-14 club. He has spent almost 18 months on the sidelines after shattering his kneecap and the Crusaders have sent him over to regain match fitness in time for pre-season training in May.

Canterbury coach Danny Vaughan is hopeful it could be the start of a permanent relationship between the clubs.

He said: "In the back of our minds if it was possible to have some sort of connection with Canterbury Union, with their professional players and development players, it would be great for us. If we could do a good job with Michael hopefully we could bring more over.

"It's really about getting Michael's confidence back, he's a quality player. In training we've seen glimpses of what he's got, he's very quick, physically quite strong."

Restrictions on National League clubs using overseas players have been tightened up by the Rugby Football Union this season, but Coman qualifies through British ancestors.

The back row forward is just delighted to finally be playing again after so long out injured and is hoping the spell will help get his career back on track.

He said: "It's been a fairly long wait, 2008 was a frustrating year. It happened at a crucial age for me as I was trying to establish myself in New Zealand, but I've got to move on and hopefully play some good rugby."

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'I hate sitting in the physio room doing nothing'

RETURN: Barry Fuller was in the Gills squad to take on Rotherham yesterday, just weeks after being hospitalised with a serious lung infection Picture: KEITH SLATER

How boredom spurred Gills captain to remarkable recovery from pneumonia

By DAVID PRITCHARD

BARRY Fuller has put his rapid return to fitness after developing pneumonia down to his hatred of spending time in the treatment room.

The Gillingham skipper shocked both doctors and the club's management by recovering in time to be included in the first-team squad for yesterday's game at Rotherham United.

It came less than five weeks after being rushed into hospital with severe bacterial pneumonia, which left him unable to breathe unaided for four days.

All professional athletes dread injuries which deprive them of their raison d'être, but Fuller has pushed himself hard to regain his fitness weeks ahead of schedule.

"I hate being injured," he said. "I hate sitting in the physio room not being able to do anything. I'm never really in there that long if possible.

"It's a lonely place, there's normally only one or two players in there at a time and sometimes the other one could be doing more physical stuff so you could be just sitting on the bed on your own for six or seven hours a day.

"I'm one of those people who wants to be out there with all the lads. I think that's what hurt the most about being in hospital and not being able to get out of bed."

Pneumonia, which infected a third of his lungs, is rare in someone so young and the full-back admits it was a huge shock when doctors diagnosed the illness.

Fuller's biggest problem was regaining the 10lbs in body weight he lost during his one-week stay in hospital. Even when he was discharged he was still unable to do much more than sit around at home.

He said: "The first week after I left hospital I wasn't allowed to do anything, even go out of the house. They just wanted me to be in my own surroundings and take my antibiotics. After that when I started coming into training I literally didn't do anything, just little jogs."

On his return to training a fortnight ago even the most optimistic forecasts put his return at early March, but hard work in the gym has seen Fuller make a remarkable recovery.

He said: "The consultants said when I was discharged that my body was still going to be weak and it's down to how I feel. I did a good hard session with the fitness coach last Saturday, I felt fine from that and maybe he told the gaffer I looked all right.

"I don't think I'll prepare any differently, in my head I may worry a bit about it but I was told by the consultants no relapse would happen. I feel ready."

• ***To watch a video interview with Barry Fuller, log on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.***

Touring spot for Motorbase

MOTORBASE Performance confirmed they will be competing in the 2009 British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

The privateer touring car team, based in Wrotham, announced they will enter a two-car assault on the BTCC title using the BMWs that were so successful last season.

Last season, Motorbase drivers Steven Kane and Rob Collard turned heads by racking up a number of points finishes including five podium finishes. Team owner David Bartrum is hoping to build on the success in 2009.

He told the team website: "I was very pleased with what we did last year, and the second half of last season was exactly what we hoped it would be. We didn't get that elusive win, but I think we know where we are now to start 2009 and we know the car.

"This will be the first time we go into the second year of a programme with the same car and so we won't be learning about it. We'd certainly like to run two cars and I have said before that I would run a third car if the money was there. As long as we run competitively and keep moving forwards, then that is what I want to do."

The team are yet to confirm drivers for the new season, but touring car legend James Thompson has been testing with the team this week at Brands Hatch and is yet to secure a drive for 2009.

The championship kicks off at Brands Hatch on April 5.

Shakey beats Sterilgarda cull

SHANE Byrne will compete in every round of the World Superbike Championship despite his Sterilgarda Ducati team being hit by the economic crisis, ***writes Tom Howard.***

With just two weeks before the opening round of the championship in Australia, the Italian-based Ducati team announced they are to drop Byrne's team-mate Alex Polita.

Due to the economic situation the team are unable to finance Polita for the first two rounds of the championship in Australia and Qatar.

Team Manager Marco Borciani told the team website: "Unfortunately the economic scenario has cut the assistance of several sponsors who were supposed to help the team for the 2009 season. I'm really sorry for Alex, who is a talented young rider with whom I hope to again be able to work with in the future."

With motorsport being hit hard during the economic crisis, Sheppey rider and reigning British Superbike champion Byrne, has confirmed he will not be affected by the cut backs at the team.

He told Kent on Sunday: "As far as I am aware I will be competing in every round. I think the problem is Alex has had one of his major sponsors pull out which is a shame.

"The sponsor funds most of his ride and with the economic crisis that has hit his sponsors, I think the team are hoping to have him compete at the first European round of the championship."

After topping the time sheets at an official test at Portimao last month, Byrne is eager to begin his first season in the World Superbike Championship.

With the opening round at Phillip Island in Australia on March 1, Byrne faces the challenge of learning a brand new circuit during the race weekend.

He will be further disadvantaged as the majority of teams, excluding Sterilgarda Ducati, will take part in a test session at the circuit later this month.

Picture: STERILGARDA DUCATI

IN THE HUNT: Shane Byrne is all set to compete in the World series

'This is the biggest year of our careers'

England skipper sets sights on World Cup glory

BY THE time you read this I will be in Australia preparing myself for what is undoubtedly the biggest year of my cricket career.

I arrived on Tuesday ahead of some of the other England squad members and management to get myself acclimatised and I have also managed to get myself two games for Gordon District Women's Cricket Club who play grade cricket in Sydney, so that should help me before the really serious stuff starts.

As I have said before, this is without doubt the biggest year in all of our careers, with the ICC Women's World Cup starting on March 7, followed by the Ashes and then the showpiece ICC Women's Twenty20 in England later this summer.

They are the three biggest events in world cricket and I'm so lucky to be playing for this England team in such high-profile competitions. Since the ICC took over the women's game, it has gone from strength to strength and I am loving every minute of playing for my country.

We have got about six or seven girls in Sydney playing club cricket, so they should be ready to hit the ground running and I know we are all ready and hungry to get going. The problem is we haven't played together as a team since September last year, so whether the training we have been doing in between is good enough, I don't know. What I do know is that we'll be fresh and ready for the challenge and there will be an opportunity to play and train together in the weeks before the World Cup starts.

HARD SLOG: Charlotte Edwards has pushed herself to the limit in training for the World Cup

Before I left for Australia, I worked really hard on my fitness, lost some weight and I feel the fittest I have ever been.

It's been a hard slog, especially with the wintry conditions in England, but as I have said to the players, as long as you have put in everything you have into preparation for this year, you can have no regrets.

We start our preparations with a game against New South Wales on Friday, February 27 before two tough games against Australia and West Indies at the beginning of March. These are good games to play in and even if we lose them all, it will be exactly the type of challenge we need ahead of the tournament.

There is real pressure on us every game to produce the goods, especially against the top teams such as Australia and New Zealand. They, in my view, are the favourites, but we have beaten them both in the last year and we go into the tournament with a huge amount of confidence. There is a belief that on our day we can beat anybody and I honestly believe, going into my fourth World Cup with England, that we have a stronger squad than last year.

For us, it's just important to play our best cricket, and the players will be given every opportunity to do just that as we have fantastic support staff.

I have a great relationship with our coach, Mark Lane, and we have a good team working with us. I think it's important that we each challenge each other as ultimately that helps bring out the best in the team.

Our immediate focus is the World Cup and I, for one, can't wait.

• ***Charlotte Edwards, the Kent and England women's cricket captain, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular columnists.***

Keep up with the county's sporting action
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IN THE FAST LANE: Jay Bridger will race in the Formula 3 International Series

Jay's joy as F3 new boys sign him up

JAY Bridger has signed a deal to drive for Team West-Tec to compete in the 2009 Formula 3 International Series.

The rising star, from Horsmonden near Tonbridge, dominated the Formula 3 National Class last season – clinching the title with five victories.

Bridger was hoping his surge to the National Crown would propel him up to the main Formula 3 category for 2009 and had been in talks with a number of teams for 2009. Clinching a deal with West-Tec will see Bridger lead the team's debut in the championship.

Bridger told the team website: "I am delighted with the programme that we have confirmed for this season. We aim to be competitive from the word go, even with our new engine and chassis package."

Team West-Tec, which also runs a two-car team in the European Formula 3 Championship, believes Bridger has the quality needed to be a success.

John Miller, co-team principal said: "Jay certainly made a great impression on us over the last year, and we were determined only to enter British Formula 3 if we could secure a quality, talented and experienced driver.

"In Jay we have an asset to the team both on and off the track. His pace is no doubt to anybody who saw him race last year, and he is also going to be able to lead our car development programme effectively."

Picture: PA PHOTOS

STAR POTENTIAL: Kent's Sam Northeast

Northeast set for breakthrough

EXCLUSIVE

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT'S newest batting prodigy is hoping to emulate Joe Denly's meteoric rise to prominence by grabbing an opportunity this summer with both hands.

Sam Northeast, from Ashford, is in line for a place in the County Championship side this season after spending several years at the club and having progressed, like Denly, through Kent's Academy.

His first and only appearance for Kent was in the final game of the 2007 season against Durham at the St Lawrence Ground where he made scores of 5 and 0.

The former Harrow schoolboy admitted he wasn't ready for first class cricket at that stage of his career, but that experience, coupled with featuring prominently for England under-19s for the past two years, should see him in good stead.

"Back then I don't think I was ready if I'm being really honest," he said. "I felt the potential was there, but against Durham, who are one of the best teams in the country and against their attack, I don't think I was ready. Now I feel I am at the stage to be able to deal with it. Looking back, that experience really showed me where I needed to be and after that game I knew I wasn't there.

"This year I feel my game is at that stage. Technically you have to sharpen up and you have to prepare to play at the top level and I won't know if I'm ready until I get my shot, but if it comes this year I have got to take it and learn from it."

Northeast returned from England under-19 duty last week after having been the country's most consistent batsman, with three half centuries in five One-Day Internationals against South Africa and having had the privilege of captaining the side in a friendly.

The 19-year-old is just happy to be back playing cricket full-time, having spent the majority of his time studying at Harrow.

He said: "The cricket went well and my preparation was good. This year I have had the luxury of time to train rather than school and all the outside worries that brings.

"It's been nice to get down to cricket and luckily it went quite well. I went there with the aim of expressing myself to see if I could take my game on to the next level. My game is improving and I feel my preparation ahead of a new season is good."

Kent have made no bones that the financial crisis has hit them hard and they are looking to invest in young players from within the county. Skipper Rob Key has indicated young players such as Northeast will get a run of games this summer, but it's up to them to make the most of that chance.

Northeast, who has moved from Sandwich Cricket Club to Gore Court in order to continue playing Kent Premier League cricket, is aware of the chance he has and intends to grab it with both hands.

"This year, if I get my opportunity, I have to make it stick," he said. "It's a big opportunity and there's still work to be done but I am enjoying playing all the time.

"I have been told there will be opportunities and to go out and take it and not play with any fear. There might be times when I play a couple of games and then miss out on a few, but it's up to me to not get down about that.

"I'm looking forward to testing myself and batting with people like Rob Key, Joe Denly and Martin van Jaarsveld, that can only improve my game.

"If I could do what [Joe Denly] has done in going from the Academy to the first team and then being in the Lions side, then that's obviously something I would like to do."

FOOTBALL
Gills skipper on his remarkable recovery from pneumonia **94**

CRICKET
Charlotte Edwards sets sights on the World Cup **95**

FA BACK BENNETT OVER RED TOP 'STING'

Picture: PA PHOTOS

Ref to be quizzed on alleged 'player asked me for yellow card' remarks

By **GLENN PEARSON**

THE HEAD of football in Kent has backed top Premier League referee Steve Bennett after he was involved in a tabloid newspaper 'sting.'

Bennett, from Orpington, was secretly taped by an undercover reporter after a UEFA conference for referees in Spain last week.

The 48-year-old, who has been refereeing at the top level of the game since 1999, allegedly revealed that top Premier League players intentionally got themselves booked in order to miss games over Christmas.

The Kent referee explained how some professional players have entered the match official's room before a game and asked him to award them a yellow card so they could miss out on a game they didn't want to play in.

It's claimed he said to the reporter: "He's come in the dresser beforehand . . . he came into the dressing room on my mother's life and said I need one more yellow card. So I gave him a yellow card and, 'No, no, no, no,' he says, 'On the pitch'. It's up to you.

"They [players] go straight through a bloke to get a yellow card so that they don't have to play over Christmas . . . all I'm saying is the foreign players probably do it more because they are never used to playing games over the Christmas period. All over Europe, there is a three-week, four-week gap."

Bennett is expected to explain his comments to the Premier League but it's thought he's unlikely face any major penalties. He is due to step down as a Premier League referee at the end of the season after reaching the mandatory retirement age, in a career that included the first FA Cup final at the new Wembley in 2007.

Barry Bright, vice-chairman of the Football Association and Kent FA chairman, told Kent on Sunday he hopes Bennett continues to represent the county as a referee and gets a chance to further his career as a referees' boss in the future.

He said: "I have every confidence in Steve Bennett and always have had, he has done a lot for the game in the county. He has inspired a lot of young football referees and I see no reason why this should not continue.

"Steve Bennett has come through Kent football and has been associated with the game in Kent in refereeing terms for a number of years.

"He has attended a number of events for the Kent Football Association and we hope that he will very much continue in our activities in the years to come."

Bennett, who was not down on a list of referees to officiate in any of this weekend's eight FA Cup fifth-round games, declined to comment when contacted by KoS.

Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

SUPPORT: Kent FA chief, Barry Bright, says Steve Bennett (above) has been an inspiration to up-and-coming referees

DISLOCATION: Martin van Jaarsveld

Kent sweat on van Jaarsveld injury update

EXCLUSIVE

KENT will be forced to radically change their overseas target if star batsman Martin van Jaarsveld is ruled out for the majority of the summer with a dislocated shoulder, ***writes Glenn Pearson.***

Van Jaarsveld, 34, was playing in a game for his South African state side Titans against the Eagles on Friday when during the Eagles innings, he dived for a ball while fielding and dislocated his shoulder.

The South African has had two opinions on his shoulder with two dramatically different results. Kent are now waiting for a final third specialist to give his prognosis by Monday.

Kent coach Graham Ford, speaking from South Africa, told Kent on Sunday the news hasn't been good so far but is holding out hope van Jaarsveld will start the season.

"I spoke to him a couple of times but we are still unsure as to what the situation is," he said. "He was assessed on Friday and we are hoping to get some more information on Monday.

"We have had two opinions; one was not good news but the other was much better. You only have to look at his record to see how important he is to our set-up."

The injury usually requires surgery to put right and players are out for a minimum of six weeks and potentially several months, which could mean Kent's vice-captain misses the start of this summer.

KoS exclusively revealed the club were looking at the possibility of bringing in two overseas bowlers to share the 2009 season, but Ford said the club's management have begun preparing for the worst.

He said: "The next few days are crucial. We have thought of possibilities but hopefully it won't come to that.

"He is a major part of our batting line-up and without him we would have to think about maybe a batter as an overseas signing but there is no decision on that as yet.

"We will have our fingers and toes crossed that he is okay."

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